

U.S. seeks Iraqi 'clarification'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is asking Iraq for "urgent clarification" of President Saddam Hussein's claim that his country has acquired a sophisticated American electronic device said to be capable of detecting nuclear weapons. "We are extremely interested in knowing where these capabilities came from and what they are," said Richard Brinkley, the State Department's deputy spokesman. "We have not authorized the sale to Iraq of any capabilities that would be useful in a nuclear weapons program," Brinkley said, adding that the export of such devices to Iraq would violate U.S. law. He said U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie "has asked for urgent clarification of Hussein's comments." Brinkley said it was impossible to tell from television pictures of the Iraqi leader's appearance whether the two devices he displayed were in fact electronic or nuclear triggering devices. But he added: "We will take whatever action is necessary to make sure U.S. laws are enforced."



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Morocco releases demonstrators

RABAT (R) — Hundreds of Islamic fundamentalists arrested after staging their biggest ever demonstration in Rabat seem to have been released as Morocco moved to counter charges of human rights abuses, lawyers said Wednesday. King Hassan announced the human rights moves six hours after eyewitnesses estimated 2,000 protesters gave a thumbs up near Rabat's main square Tuesday by men in civilian clothes armed with clubs and unfurled pro-Islamic flags. "I cannot know everything... I cannot know exactly what goes on in prisons," King Hassan said as he announced the setting up of a 37-member consultative committee on human rights. "On the other hand it is my duty to redress bad situations and render justice to victims of injustice," he said. "We are exasperated... by all these reports that tend to make believe there are people in prison in Morocco for political reasons." Morocco's so-called political prisoners were in fact subversives, he said.

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Giacomelli due here today

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli arrives here today for a three-day visit after which he will proceed to the occupied territories, informed sources said Wednesday.

Jordan to get \$15m IDB loan

NICOSIA (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has approved a total of \$49.6 million to finance development and trade in six member states, including \$15 million for Jordan. A statement by the Saudi Arabia-based IDB said Jordan will get \$5 million to finance imports of cotton from an IDB member state and \$10 million to finance crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia.

First batch of pilgrims in Jeddah

JEDDAH (AP) — The first batch of overseas Muslims making the annual Hajj to the Holy City of Mecca arrived Wednesday on two ships from India and Pakistan. Officials at the Red Sea port of Jeddah said that 9,562 pilgrims from India disembarked from one ship, and 1,127 Pakistanis from another. The culmination of the Hajj falls in early July this year.

Iran says accord reached with U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Wednesday it had reached agreement with the United States on a number of financial disputes dating from the revolution in 1979. Tehran Radio quoted a statement by Iran's mission at the Iran-U.S. claims tribunal in the Hague as saying under two separate agreements, Iran would pay the United States a total of \$105 million to settle more than 3,100 claims. It quoted Ali Nabati, Iran's representative at the tribunal, as saying the deal, yet to be ratified by the Iranian parliament, had nothing to do with American hostages held in Lebanon.

7 killed, 16 injured in Srinagar battles

SRINAGAR (R) — Seven civilians were killed and 16 injured Wednesday in street battles in the northern city of Srinagar between Indian security forces and separatist militants, police and hospital sources said. Militants threw grenades in a bold mid-day attack, injuring two paramilitary police in sandbagged bunkers in the city's Lal Chowk market, police said.

Locusts sighted in north Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — The air force went into action Wednesday in support of desert locust combat operations in northern Oman, where the season's first sightings of the crop-threatening insect were reported from the Arabian Peninsula. Aerial spraying by the Sultanate's air force on the Batinah coast and eastern Sharqiyah region would bring the situation under control by Friday, Agriculture Department Director Ahmad Al Hinal said. He said locusts were the main crop under attack and agriculture department fieldworkers were fighting from the ground to contain the growing threat to farm crops.

De Klerk in Paris

PARIS (AP) — South African President F.W. de Klerk arrived Wednesday on the first stop of an 18-day European tour viewed by his government as a major step away from decades of international isolation. Buoyed by a breakthrough in black-white negotiations at home, de Klerk plans to meet with presidents and prime ministers in nine European countries — the most extensive trip by a South African leader since the National Party took power in 1948. He is to confer Thursday with French President Francois Mitterrand, who shunned P.W. Botha — de Klerk's predecessor — when Botha came to France to visit cemeteries of South African soldiers killed in the world wars.

CBJ reserves stand at \$490m

Amount includes \$20m received from UAE and \$100 as Gulf's deposits, governor says
100% writeoff for Petra, Jordan Gulf shares
Expatriate remittances seen at \$750-\$800m

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The foreign currency reserves of Jordan now stand at \$490 million, including an amount of \$20 million received Wednesday as aid from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the government is confident that the reserves could be raised by another \$150 million by the end of 1990, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said Wednesday.

The reserves include an amount of \$100 million in the form of deposits received from the central banks of Gulf Arab states under a special arrangement, Nabulsi told an informal press briefing. These deposits, he said, are "the second line of reserves for a period of five years" and the depositors have equivalent reciprocal deposits in Jordanian dinars. The CBJ expects to receive another \$100 million in such deposits by the end of June, Nabulsi added.

"They (the depositors) get eight per cent interest on the dinars, and we try to get as much as we can on the dollars," the governor said. The receipt of \$20 million in aid from the UAE raised to \$43 million the total financial assistance Jordan received this year from external sources. Nabulsi confirmed Wednesday that Qatar



Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi

had given \$10 million and other official sources said Jordan received \$13 million from aid agencies.

Nabulsi affirmed that \$350 million of the CBJ reserves represented 35 per cent of public deposits in foreign currency held by commercial banks. CBJ regulations stipulate that all commercial banks deposit 35 per cent of the foreign exchange deposits of their clients with the Central Bank.

Nabulsi dismissed assertions that this amount "constituted a loan to the Central Bank" from the commercial banking sector. "This is the money of the Jordanians, whether held by the Central Bank or the commercial

banks," he said. "It is also part of Jordan's reserves; (it is) not the money of the commercial banks."

"In fact, we are not using legislation which allows us to expropriate 100 per cent of foreign currency deposits of Jordanians with commercial banks," he said. "Furthermore, the banks are getting full interest on the deposit with the Central Bank."

The CBJ governor briefly reviewed the monetary developments related to foreign currency reserves in the one year since the assumed office. "One year ago, we were in the red," he said. "Foreign exchange reserves were less than zero since the Central Bank had spent \$150 million of (the mandatory) commercial bank deposits in addition to another \$60 million borrowed against (CBJ) gold (reserves)." During the one year since then, "we not only made up (for the shortfall) but also registered, at the highest point about three months back, \$500 million in reserves," he said.

Jordan also paid an amount of between \$150 million to \$160 million in arrears of interest in foreign debts in the first quarter of this year, he added.

Remittances expected to rise

Nabulsi said homeward remittances by Jordanian expatriates

(Continued on page 5)

Egypt pursues efforts to clear hurdles for summit

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

CAIRO — Egypt appeared Wednesday to have assumed a higher profile in efforts to convene an extraordinary Arab summit after declaring its support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) call for such a conference.

But Syria indicated that it remained firm in its refusal to attend an Arab summit if it was held in Baghdad, and suggested that a summit would create "confusion" if it were "improvised" without proper agreement on where to hold it and what to discuss.

In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein met with two Egyptian envoys, who delivered to him a message from President Hosni Mubarak, who was holding

a second day of talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah on prospects for the proposed summit. No details were available of the Egyptian message, which was delivered by Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and Mubarak's advisor Osama Al Baz.

The two officials, however, confirmed that it dealt with efforts to convene the summit.

Mubarak said earlier Egypt supports calls for extraordinary Arab summit despite differences over the proposed venue, Baghdad.

"There might be some difficulties. But we are for the summit anyway," Mubarak told reporters accompanying Prince Abdullah Tuesday night.

"We hope the summit will convene and that the Arabs will get

Egypt backs Baghdad summit

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has backed a plan for an emergency Arab summit in the Iraqi capital Baghdad, despite fierce Syrian opposition, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported Wednesday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, back from a one-day visit to Baghdad, was quoted as saying he had told Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi of Egypt's official support for the proposal.

Diplomats said Egypt's decision appeared to signal an end, at least temporarily, to intensive efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria.

Labour infighting flares over idea for new alliance

TEL AVIV (AP) — A bitter debate erupted Wednesday in Shimon Peres' centre-left Labour Party over whether to drop demands that a new government endorse U.S. peace proposals and forge a ruling alliance with the right-wing Likud bloc.

The infighting was fuelled by a renewed power struggle between Peres, the party's chairman, and his intra-party rival Yitzhak Rabin, a former prime minister.

At the heart of the controversy was a seven-point proposal for a new joint Labour-Likud coalition. It was drawn up by the National Religious Party and was backed by Rabin and his supporters.

In the proposal, a copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press, Labour conditions a new alliance with Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on achieving parity in the cabinet, which currently has 26 seats. It calls for sticking to Israel's plan to hold elections in the occupied territories. But the proposal falls short of previous

insistence that the cabinet approve U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan for holding an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

The document said "the national unity government (should) be based on the guidelines of the outgoing government, the peace plan ratified by the government on May 14, 1989, and the cabinet's decision of Nov. 6, 1989" to seek clarifications from Baker.

Shamir's failure to ratify Baker's proposals was the reason Peres forced a parliamentary vote of no confidence which toppled the Labour-Likud alliance March 15.

Labour doves said they considered it unthinkable to reverse their stand. They vowed to torpedo final approval once the proposal comes up for a vote in the party's leadership bureau.

"I think this means we are giving up on the peace process. We always said we would put peace first and that was why we tried to form a new government," Labour parliament member

Haim Ramon said in an interview.

Ezer Weizman, a former defence minister who has urged Israel to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), bristled over the proposal while speaking to colleagues in the Knesset dining room.

"We have to quit making a mockery of ourselves before the entire world," Weizman was heard saying by an AP reporter.

Peres quickly distanced himself from the paper even though the agreement reportedly won the approval of party leaders.

"In my opinion, we have no consolidated proposal. These are only questions and corrections," he said on Israeli Radio.

Rabin, who had a hand in drafting the proposal, lashed out at Peres and his supporters. He said a "dirty trick" had been played on the party by Peres' faction which had brought down the alliance without lining up enough support to form a Labour-led government.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday confers in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

King: Summit should be Arab effort to face dangers

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday a proposed extraordinary Arab summit should be an effort on the pan-Arab national level to address the challenges posed to the Arab World.

Speaking at a meeting with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, the King said an Arab summit was of paramount importance at "this stage where the Arab Nation is confronting grave dangers and challenges," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The proposed summit, the King was quoted as saying, "will deal seriously with the question of national security and threats

posed by Jewish immigration into Palestine." The immigration, he said, "poses serious consequences to Palestine and paves the way for Israel's expansionist aims."

"The summit should also unify the Arab World behind Iraq, which is now exposed to a hostile campaign, and to chart defence plans that can counter any possible aggression on Arab soil," the King said.

The King's meeting with Klibi at the Royal Palace was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Qasem held a separate round of talks with Klibi before the Arab League chief's departure from Amman.

Klibi arrived here Tuesday from Damascus after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on prospects for the proposed summit. He visited Baghdad and held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last week.

The King, after talks on Monday with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz on the summit, proposed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to be held in Baghdad, affirmed that there was no plan to shift the venue for the gathering away from the Iraqi capital.

Palestinians vow to escalate intifada

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip entered its 30th month on Wednesday, the Palestinians saying it will carry on indefinitely.

A pamphlet from underground leaders declared a general strike for May 9 to mark 29 months since the revolt erupted.

An Israeli court jailed leading Palestinian activist Hassan Abed Rabbo, 29, arrested last year with three other leaders of the Arab Revolt.

At the time Israel said they were responsible for clandestine leaflets that spread orders for protests among the 1.75 million Palestinians under occupation.

But their capture did little to halt the flow of pamphlets. The latest, numbered 55, called for strike action.

They were the leadership, but the leadership is a living changing thing," a Nabulsi activist said.

A military court Tuesday jailed

Abed Rabbo for 42 months, saying that as a representative of the dominant Fateh organisation he was obviously senior to members of other groups captured with him.

Prosecuting Captain Yaron Levy said Abed Rabbo helped draft leaflets 32 and 34 calling for Palestinians to use knives, stones and petrol bombs against Israelis.

Court sources said Abed Rabbo denied inciting violence and said his role in the revolt was exaggerated. "I was only a small cog in the organisation," he told the court.

Levy named leading Palestinian publicist Sari Nusseibeh as briefing Abed Rabbo and others before they wrote the leaflets.

Nusseibeh has repeatedly been named in Israeli courts as an organiser of the uprising but has so far been spared prosecution due to what Israeli officials describe as "extra-judicial considerations."

He is a candidate for possible

closed in a strike ordered by the revolt's leaders.

Palestinian flags fluttered from lamp posts and were chalked on mosque walls. Masked youths darted from alleys to stone a passing army jeep.

"The intifada has its up days and down days, and it's not all just stone throwing and dodging the bullets," a Ramallah-student leader said.

"The intifada is also about organising clinics, workshops, self-help groups, agricultural cooperatives and other forms of autonomy. That's going on all the time whether there's a new martyr in the headlines or not, and it will continue," he said.

Security forces in Ramallah raided an Arab nursing college Tuesday and arrested two men in a hunt for Palestinian activists, Palestinian sources said.

Troops in the West Bank Village of Tekoa wounded a 14-year-old protester with rubber bullets, the sources said.

Israel to spend \$1 billion more to absorb Soviets

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Wednesday he would back an emergency plan under which the government will spend an additional two billion shekels (\$1 billion) to absorb some 150,000 Soviet Jews expected in this fiscal year.

He said the extra money was needed because the number of Soviets arriving has outgrown the estimates of Israel's budget planners.

The 1990 budget only earmarked enough money to pay the costs of absorbing 40,000 Soviet Jews during the fiscal year ending in March 1991. Updated figures suggest 150,000 may arrive in that period. More than 30,000 Soviet Jews have come to Israel since Jan. 1.

Sources said the new plan allocated \$600 million for direct costs of absorbing immigrants into Israeli society, \$100 million for housing, \$500 million for mortgages, \$85 million for infrastructure and \$35 million for employment.

The source said that allocation will be supplemented by an extra \$500 million in budget reserves in case immigration reaches the top of the estimates.

The new immigration budget, mostly financed by borrowing abroad, will cause a \$600 million increase in the budgets deficit.

Hrawi visits Damascus; Aoun blockades LF ports

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi met President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday to seek Syrian assistance in extending his authority in the war-ravaged country and halting bitter inter-Christian fighting in east Beirut.

In Beirut, rebel general Michel Aoun shelled sea outlets controlled by rival warlord Samir Geagea Wednesday and declared the coast of the Christian enclave off limits to shipping.

Police said at least 20 people were killed and 41 wounded in the savage shelling duels that covered the whole 800-square kilometre enclave.

That raised the overall toll to 972 killed and 2,564 wounded since the showdown for the Christian area broke out Jan. 30.

Police said Aoun's howitzer batteries, deployed in the Metn mountains north of Beirut, were shelling almost all the enclave's 45-kilometre coastline to block Geagea's supply lines.

Hrawi, making his second official visit to Damascus since his election by Lebanese Muslim and Christian deputies in November, was greeted at the western entrance to the capital by Assad and a 21-gun salute, officials said.

He was accompanied by Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, and other Lebanese officials who drove from west Beirut.

Klibi said seeking Syria-Iraq compromise formula

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi is seeking a compromise to address the problem over Syrian refusal to attend an Arab summit in Baghdad, sources quoted by Reuters said Wednesday.

The news agency quoted an "official source" close to Klibi's talks with His Majesty King Hussein as saying that a compromise being suggested by the secretary-general would include holding a pre-summit meeting of foreign ministers, as demanded by Syria but holding it in Baghdad to satisfy Iraq.

"There are guarantees that (Syrian President) Hafez Al Assad would send his foreign minister to attend the ministerial meeting if it is held in Baghdad," the official was quoted as saying.

"Klibi is working on this face-saving formula," the source said. "He is not very optimistic... but will work on it as a reasonable way out from the current Arab stalemate."

"The main concern now is how to guarantee Syria's presence at the urgent summit if it is to take any crucial resolutions on how to preserve Arab national security."

Klibi arrived in Baghdad later Wednesday.

Kuwait arrests 8 opposition figures over illegal meeting

KUWAIT (AP) — Security men have arrested eight opposition figures for attending an illegal gathering, an Interior Ministry statement said Wednesday.

The statement identified those arrested as Dr. Ahmad Al Khafji, a fiery speaker and former parliament member, Abdul Mohsen Al Farhan, owner of the diwaniya, or meeting hall, in the Rawda neighbourhood, and six others. The meeting was held Tuesday.

"Those arrested are being interrogated as a prelude for referring them to the public prosecution to decide what measures should be taken against them," the Interior Ministry said.

Former members of Kuwait's parliament, apparently stepping up their campaign against the government-decreed Transitional National Council, claimed 20 arrests from a packed diwaniya Tuesday.

Activists reject the 4-year body, with 50 members to be elected and 25 to be appointed, as unconstitutional.

They have been using the diwa-

niyas to press against the interim council, and for the restoration of the fully elected house which was dissolved in 1986. Thirty-two of the previous parliament's 50 members are in the opposition bloc.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah had warned against using the halls for political rallies ahead of the National Council elections set for June 10.

"Despite previous warnings by the Interior Ministry against using the diwanis for non-traditional purposes, some citizens still exploit diwanis to call for and convene rallies in violation of the laws," the official statement said.

"Accordingly, security men were obliged to apply the law and disperse an illegal rally Tuesday night at the diwaniya of Abdul Mohsen Al Farhan in the Rawda neighbourhood after the owner

failed to respond to the security men's order to disperse the meeting," it said.

Farhan, Khafji, who was addressing the meeting, and six others were arrested "when they tried to impede security men carrying out their duty," added the statement.

Opposition sources from the so-called "Constitutional Group" said that among those seized Tuesday were Ahmad Al Nafisi and Abdullah Al Nibari. Like Khafji, they are left-leaning politicians.

Speaking on condition they not be named, the sources also claimed that Monday night, former deputy Ahmad Baqer was arrested as he left another diwaniya where he delivered an address against the government plans. Baqer is a reputed Muslim fundamentalist.

They quoted Kuwait's Interior Ministry undersecretary, Youssef Al Khorafi, as telling Baqer's attorneys that the arrest was made "on suspicion of distribution of leaflets."

The arrests took place as reg-

istration of candidates running in the June election was drawing to a close. At least 407 candidates so far have announced their candidacy, 14 of them former deputies.

The opposition group of 32 had declared a boycott of the election campaign, but at least one has registered for the elections.

The government insisted that it needs a transitional period to find the means to limit the vitriolic criticism that the MPs used to direct at government ministers.

The transitional body has been decry by the opposition group as toothless because it has no power to legislate, only to initiate laws and turn them to the government for approval.

They also insist that the presence of the transitional body means that the constitution remains suspended for the four-year term.

Government officials have been stressing that the constitution will not be infringed upon and that the specified 50-member elected parliament will be duly restored.

U.S., Iran make progress in settling financial issues

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Iran have made substantial progress in negotiations and are now close to settling some 2,600 small claims against Iran filed by Americans after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the State Department said.

Department officials said the progress has been made over many months and has no connection to the recent release of two American hostages in Lebanon or to the fate of other U.S. citizens who continue to be held there.

"A package settlement of small claims has been under discussion for some time, and differences have narrowed considerably, but we have not yet closed this matter," said Margaret Tutwiler, the department's chief spokeswoman.

Another department official, who commented on condition he not be identified by name, said: "We're close to a settlement now."

Tutwiler noted that the meetings of U.S. and Iranian legal experts have been held roughly once a month since last fall with another meeting set later this month. The United States is represented at the talks at the Hague in the Netherlands by Judge Abraham Sofaer, the State Department's chief legal adviser.

Tutwiler was twice asked whether the progress in the talks represents a good faith gesture or signal from the administration of President George Bush in an effort to improve relations and effect the release of all the hostages.

She did not respond directly but said: "The way that I answered it for you was to point out to you that this discussion of a package settlement has been under discussion for quite some time."

The U.S. official said the talks overall have been "fairly serious, fairly businesslike and devoid of references to the hostages."

On Friday, Tutwiler said it is U.S. policy that "we do not discuss hostages in this forum and we will not discuss hostages in this forum."

The talks center on resolving the claims of U.S. corporations, individuals and the government, each for \$250,000 or less, for property seized, contracts voided and debts unpaid.

For both the United States and Iran, settling the claims would remove an irritant that has endured since the Islamic revolution and the 1981 release of hostages held at the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Under the 1981 Algiers Accords, which resolved the hostages crisis, the Iran-United States claims tribunal was established at the Hague to arbitrate claims between the two governments and their citizens.

So far, the tribunal has awarded more than \$1.3 billion to American claimants and about \$130 million to Iranian claimants, according to the State Department.

The United States has voiced concern that Israeli weapons sold to Antigua in 1989 had turned up on the estate of drug lord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, killed by Colombian police last year.

Israeli officials handed the Antigua delegation documents showing that the sale was made legally to the island's security.

They insisted that Israel did not know how the weapons ended up in Colombia and had received guarantees from Antigua that they would not be sold to a third party.

Official Israeli documents show the Antigua government had appointed a U.S. resident named Maurice Sarfati as its special envoy to conclude the arms deal, worth some \$220,000. Sarfati is an Israeli citizen, Israeli newspapers said.

They said the weapons were shipped to Panamanian exiles who had links with Gacha and they sent the weapons to Colombia.

He met with the delegation from Antigua for clarification. They have no legal standing here," Shapiro told Reuters Wednesday.

Klein earlier said some of the 500 Israeli-made assault rifles, machine-guns and ammunition were destined for Panamanian opposition forces he was to train in Antigua.

Yossi Brun, a spokesman for the party, said the party had disclosed its agreements with small parties, including the Torah Flag and Torah Guardians religious factions.

The Jerusalem Post said the agreement with Torah Flag pledged to give the party an extra \$45 million for education, absorption of new immigrants and religious activities.

"It is inconceivable that we would go against the supreme court decisions. We are for the decisions," he said.

But he said the decision did not apply to intra-party agreements and would not force Likud to make public its pact with Abraham Sharir, a former tourism minister who was lured back after crossing over to Labour briefly.

Labour Party Secretary Micha Harish was quoted by the Jerusalem Post as saying "we will keep our promise" to disclose details of coalition pacts.

But, in an interview, prominent Labour parliament member Haim Ramon expressed reservations about disclosing details.

"It doesn't have to go that far. We are entering into another area if the courts can rule on private agreements. If I make an agreement with another person, there is no reason that I should be forced to publicise it," he said.

Among the agreements Labour has kept secret are ones with Sharir and Charlie Biton, who broke away from the Communist Party, as well as a pact with the Agudat Israel religious faction.

Shamir rejects hostage deals without release of Israelis

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, speaking for the first time about a prisoner swap, said Wednesday Israel would not release any Arab detainees for Western hostages unless Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon were also freed.

Asked about growing U.S. pressure on Israel to free detainees, Shamir said: "I don't think that anybody will ask Israel to participate in such an endeavor without having a possibility to release our own prisoners and missing soldiers."

Three Israeli soldiers were captured in Lebanon in 1986 and are believed to be held by Hezbollah, a pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim militia.

Sixteen Westerners, including six Americans, are also held in Lebanon.

When asked whether any progress had been made concerning the release of Israeli captives, Shamir said: "Unfortunately, not yet."

He spoke to reporters during a tour of a high-tech factory.

Israel's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, said no contacts were under way concerning a three-way swap involving Israel, the United States and the captors in Lebanon.

Shomron said in an interview

broadcast Wednesday on Israel Radio that there had been no requests for prisoner releases and no practical proposals for a prisoner swap.

He also said any deal that does materialise would have to include the return of three Israeli soldiers captured by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim militiamen in Lebanon.

"When there is a readiness on the other side to return (Israeli) prisoners, we are prepared for an exchange. This (policy) has not changed," Shomron said.

"Today, there is nothing concrete where someone is talking to us about exchanges."

Interviewed Tuesday night Shomron also noted that Israel had a military option to rescue hostages.

U.S. President George Bush indirectly appealed to Israel and two prominent U.S. senators made a direct one, urging Israel to free Shi'ites as a good will gesture to encourage further releases of Western hostages, including six Americans.

About 30 Lebanese prisoners, including Shi'ite cleric Yaman Abdul Karim Obeid, are held in Israel while the Lebanese militia Israel trains and supplies has more than 300 mostly Shi'ite prisoners in a South Lebanon jail.

In addition to the Shi'ites,

Israel holds 9,986 Palestinians detained during the Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu restated Israel's position that no deal was possible without the three Israelis captured in 1986.

"Like any country, we want to bring our boys back home," he said.

"We are prepared to exchange (Shi'ites) for our captives, as has been acceptable in the past. If during the exchange of our prisoners they will also release Western hostages, we will of course be happy and praise it," Netanyahu said.

Sungar declined to say whether the new accord would also allow Turkish forces to pursue Kurdish separatists into Iraqi territory.

Turkey has been fighting since 1984 to quell the insurgency by the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party in the southeastern region bordering Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Ankara made use of the hot pursuit clause to bomb what were said to be rebel Kurdish hideouts in northern Iraq in March 1987.

Sungar also said Syria would attend a round of Turkish-Iraqi ministerial talks in Ankara next month to draft a scheme for the equitable sharing of the waters of the Euphrates River.

Turkey, Iraq consider new border security protocol

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Iraq are planning a border security protocol to replace one which expired two years ago, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

The sides exchanged written proposals during Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut's visit to Baghdad last week, ministry spokesman Murat Sungar said.

Sungar declined to say whether the new accord would also allow Turkish forces to pursue Kurdish separatists into Iraqi territory.

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Israeli reformers welcome ruling to make coalition pacts public

TEL AVIV (AP) — Electoral reformers claimed their first victory Wednesday after Israel's supreme court ordered political parties to make full disclosure of political pacts made to form government coalitions.

In an unanimous 25-page decision, a three-member panel of judges ruled in favour of petitions by four Israeli citizens against the centre-left Labour Party of Shimon Peres and the right-wing Likud Bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as well as individual politicians.

Chief Justice Meir Shamgar wrote that the disclosure should be made in the Knesset, or parliament, no later than the day the prime minister-designate presents his new government for a vote of confidence.

"Free opinion and public

knowledge of what is occurring in the system of government are an integral part of the democratic system," he wrote.

"Public confidence cannot possibly be maintained on the basis of things which are concealed."

The court said hiding information is justified only when state security, relations with foreign countries or vital public interests are endangered.

Uriel Reichman, a law professor who has been a reform leader, hailed the ruling as step towards overhauling the "corrupt system" of political horse-trading.

"A coalition agreement cannot be signed any longer in sealed rooms without the public knowing how national interests are decided and taxpayers money is distributed," he said.

He said it would give new impetus to the reform campaign, which started six weeks ago after an outburst of public anger over secret deals made to lure politicians to cross party lines and win over small religious factions.

"This is a victory for the protest movement," said Shraga Eliad, one of the four citizens who petitioned the court.

The movement began with a small group of hunger strikers shortly after the "national unity government" collapsed on March 15. Tens of thousands later joined public demonstrations and a half-million signatures, about 10 per cent of Israel's 4.7 million population, were gathered.

Amnon Rubenstein, head of the Liberal Shinui (change) Party, said disclosure of coalition agreements would "heighten

public disgust" with the existing system and could put pressure on the large parties.

He said the test would come when parliament takes up reform proposals in the next few weeks, including bills to have direct election of the prime minister and to elect 80 of the 120 members of parliament on the basis of districts.

Parliament candidates are currently selected by the parties and run on a nationwide list.

Rubenstein said ultra-orthodox religious parties which hold the balance of power between Labour and Likud were to blame for the lack of change until now.

"The orthodox parties exercise a stranglehold... they veto reform whenever it threatens their interests," he said.

Both major political parties

welcomed the decision even though they were the targets of the lawsuit.

Yossi Brun, a spokesman for the party, said the party had disclosed its agreements with small parties, including the Torah Flag and Torah Guardians religious factions.

The Jerusalem Post said the agreement with Torah Flag pledged to give the party an extra \$45 million for education, absorption of new immigrants and religious activities.

"It is inconceivable that we would go against the supreme court decisions. We are for the decisions," he said.

But he said the decision did not apply to intra-party agreements and would not force Likud to make public its pact with Abraham Sharir, a former tourism

minister who was lured back after crossing over to Labour briefly.

Labour Party Secretary Micha Harish was quoted by the Jerusalem Post as saying "we will keep our promise" to disclose details of coalition pacts.

But, in an interview, prominent Labour parliament member Haim Ramon expressed reservations about disclosing details.

"It doesn't have to go that far. We are entering into another area if the courts can rule on private agreements. If I make an agreement with another person, there is no reason that I should be forced to publicise it," he said.

Among the agreements Labour has kept secret are ones with Sharir and Charlie Biton, who broke away from the Communist Party, as well as a pact with the Agudat Israel religious faction.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

UAE leader meets Chinese premier

BEIJING (R) — Chinese Premier Li Peng praised visiting President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan for developing a mixed economy, the official New China News Agency said Wednesday. Li also lauded his guest for improving the living standards of his people, it said. China unleashed the private sector in the heyday of reform in 1978 but under hardline Marxists placed renewed emphasis on state planning and heavy state industries. Hardliners like Li have said state industry played a key role in a mixed economy. Sheikh Zaid, who arrived for a five-day visit Monday, said the friendship between the two countries made them "shoulder-to-shoulder brothers." The two leaders discussed furthering trade and economic relations, the agency said. Earlier, Sheikh Zaid laid a wreath at the monument to the people's heroes in Tiananmen Square. Chinese President Yang Shangkun, who visited the United Arab Emirates in December, met Sheikh Zaid Tuesday.

Iran, China call for closer ties

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and China called Wednesday for closer ties and Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said this would counter U.S. "imperialist expansionism." Tehran Radio said Rafsanjani told the Chinese National People's Congress Chairman Wan Li that Iran had at one point feared that China's policies were ill-conceived. "That was when the Americans and Westerners had entered China held hopes for upheavals inside China. Of course it seems now the danger has receded," Rafsanjani said, apparently referring to the harder line adopted by the Chinese leadership since suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators last June. Wan defended China's handling of the unrest, denouncing Washington's "aggressive meddling" over the affair. "There are two yardsticks for human rights in the eyes of the United States and the West," Wan said.

Brazil receives Arafat message

BRASILIA (R) — A senior PLO official said he personally delivered a message Tuesday from PLO leader Yasser Arafat to Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello. Faruk Kadoumi, who was on a one-day visit to Brazil as foreign affairs representative and secretary of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, told a news conference that he met Collor de Mello, but he did not disclose what was discussed. The content of Arafat's message to the Brazilian president was also not disclosed. Brazil recognised the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people but has not authorised the PLO to establish diplomatic representation in Brazil.

Iranians warned to abide by dress code

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Interior Ministry Tuesday warned all Iranians to strictly abide by the Islamic dress code, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted an official statement as saying all men and women must "avoid use of clothing in public which is against Islamic Law." Tradition dictates that women wear at least a scarf, covering all their hair, and a loose-smock fully covering arms and legs. There are no strict guidelines for men, but shorts are prohibited in Iran. "All boutiques, shops, offices, beauty salons, restaurants, hotels, clinics and all other public places" must abide by the dress code, the statement warned. It said that all violators of the code will be picked up by agents of the committees, Iran's main law enforcement agency. The statement advised the public to report all violators, but not to take the matter into their own hands.

Afghan 'gunslinger' shoots, stabs four

NICOSIA (AP) — Four people, two of them Afghans, were shot and stabbed with a knife in the Iranian capital, Tehran, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the incident occurred Saturday. It said all the injured were taken to hospital, but did not mention their condition. It said an Afghan "gunslinger" still at large, had shot and stabbed two of his compatriots in central Tehran, and injured two Iranian passers-by. IRNA said seven empty gun shells were found at the site in Mowlawi Street.

Turkey: Amnesty report seems strained, outdated

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said Wednesday that at first look an Amnesty International statement alleging torture and other human rights abuses continued unabated in the country seemed strained and out of date.

"This report seems to be a photostat copy of the previous one," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar said of a statement issued by the London-based human rights group earlier Wednesday.

"One can sense a forced aspect (in it). It is being examined carefully but the report gives the impression that great efforts have been made to find points to criticise," Sungar said.

Amnesty accused the Turkish government of failing to carry out a programme to improve its human rights record.

The Turkish government published proposed safeguards against rights abuses six months ago but routine torture of prisoners, including children, was still widespread, it said.

The treatment of prisoners violated a United Nations convention against torture and inhuman punishment which Turkey ratified in 1988, it said.

Torture and human rights abuses in Turkey must stop and the government should not only act on its proposals but also extend them so Turkey complies with the full range of international standards protecting human rights," it said.

Ankara denies systematic use of torture in its jails but says all individual cases are carefully investigated.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Religious programme
19:00 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:30 Local series
21:30 News in Arabic
22:20 Local programme
22:50 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:40 Molleriesim
18:10 Des Chiffres et de Lettres
18:30 La Chance aux châteaux
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Cosby Show
21:10 Alice to Nowhere
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Peter O'Connor"

PRAYER TIMES

04:10 Fajr
05:38 (Sunrise) Duha
12:32 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:26 Maghreb
20:52 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish Tel: 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627855.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 685336.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 64932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will remain under the effect of the unstable weather conditions which affected the country Wednesday. Thus it will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for local showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and sea wavy.

Amman 12 / 25

Aqaba 18 / 33

Deserts 14 / 28

Jordan Valley 16 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 696048
Dr. Youssef Rashad 896301
Dr. Saleh Al Issawi 649028
Dr. Mufeed Tannous 884480
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 627055
Neirochik pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

IBBID:

Dr. Ali Al Omani (—)
Al Shara'a pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Fajla (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday meets with Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf and senior ministry officials in a bid to stem water pollution in the Kingdom (Petra photo).

Badran warns of water pollution, urges measures for combatting it

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday instructed the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to put an end to the pollution of the environment and underground water resources in the Kingdom, particularly in the Jerash district where, he said, the pollution is caused by the wastewater treatment plant at the plant there.

"The ministry's organs should see to it that water coming out from such plants is not contaminated and does not cause harm to public health," the Prime Minister said during a visit at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

"The government will not be lenient with any officials responsible for the wastewater treatment plants should these be found to have harmed public health in any area of Jordan and will refer those officials to court for trial," Badran warned during his meeting with Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf and senior ministry officials.

Discussions at the meeting dwelt on ways to solve problems related to the wastewater treatment plants with the help of a special team of technicians who can follow specific procedures in this regard.

The Prime Minister instructed the ministry to set up such a team in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and said that vegetables vendors along the Jerash road should be stopped from the practice of cleaning and washing their produce with contaminated water coming out from the wastewater plant in Jerash.

"More touching that water is considered harmful to public health," the Prime Minister pointed out.

Badran attributed the contamination of water and the bad smell to the improper design of the plants and operation procedures and their improper location.

The Prime Minister said nearly 50 per cent of the water running in the network is lost, largely due to the damaged pipes.

"The Ministry of Water and Irrigation possesses equipment and special teams who can conduct repairs on the networks and stop the leakage not only in Jerash but also along networks in other parts of the Kingdom," the Prime Minister said.

Badran asked that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation reconsider an earlier decision of imposing a ban on licences for people wishing to drill artesian wells in the water basins of the Kingdom especially in the South. Instead, he said, proper studies of various areas should precede this procedure.

The Prime Minister urged the ministry to set up such a team in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and said that vegetables vendors along the Jerash road should be stopped from the practice of cleaning and washing their produce with contaminated water coming out from the wastewater plant in Jerash.

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CAEU stresses need for Arab cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting opened at the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) discussing ways to consolidate economic cooperation among the Arab states.

The 10-member committee which represents the CAEU members will review a bi-annual report by the council's Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim and pave the way for a meeting in Amman next month by ministers of industry and trade in the Arab World.

The Libyan delegate, who chaired the meeting, called on Arab states to uphold the CAEU's agreement and to contribute towards cementing ties between the three Arab economic groups: the Arab Cooperation Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Maghreb Union.

Ibrahim, who addressed the meeting, said the Arab countries have no alternative but to promote their inter-economic cooperation in view of the fast world developments.

Current economic problems facing the Arab states, he said, can be overcome through a common Arab market and programmes that pave the way for economic integration in the Arab World.

Delegates attending the two-day meeting came from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Libya, Mauritania, Egypt and South Yemen.

The society will have a board of trustees and will have active, affiliated and honorary members. Honorary members could come from various professional unions, public organisations and private institutions which provide support for the society's activities and programmes.

Society sources said its constituent assembly will hold its first meeting Tuesday to elect a board of directors who will supervise the implementation of the society's programmes.

USAID workshop expects stronger market economy

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a move to improve and enhance the private sector, not only throughout the Middle East region, but worldwide, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has organised a "USAID development workshop," the topic of a three-day conference that ended Wednesday. The workshop was attended by USAID staff and representatives from Jordan, Egypt, Pakistan, Morocco, Tunisia, Oman and the United States.

According to John Blackton, USAID deputy assistant administrator in Asia, Near East and Europe, the workshop enabled the participants to share ideas and explore ways in which prospects of economic change can meet the challenge of a multipolar, market-oriented, global economy in the 1990's. He said that USAID "would provide financial and policy support to restructure the regional economies away from central planning towards a stronger private sector and more open market," and look into the success of business, exports, banking.

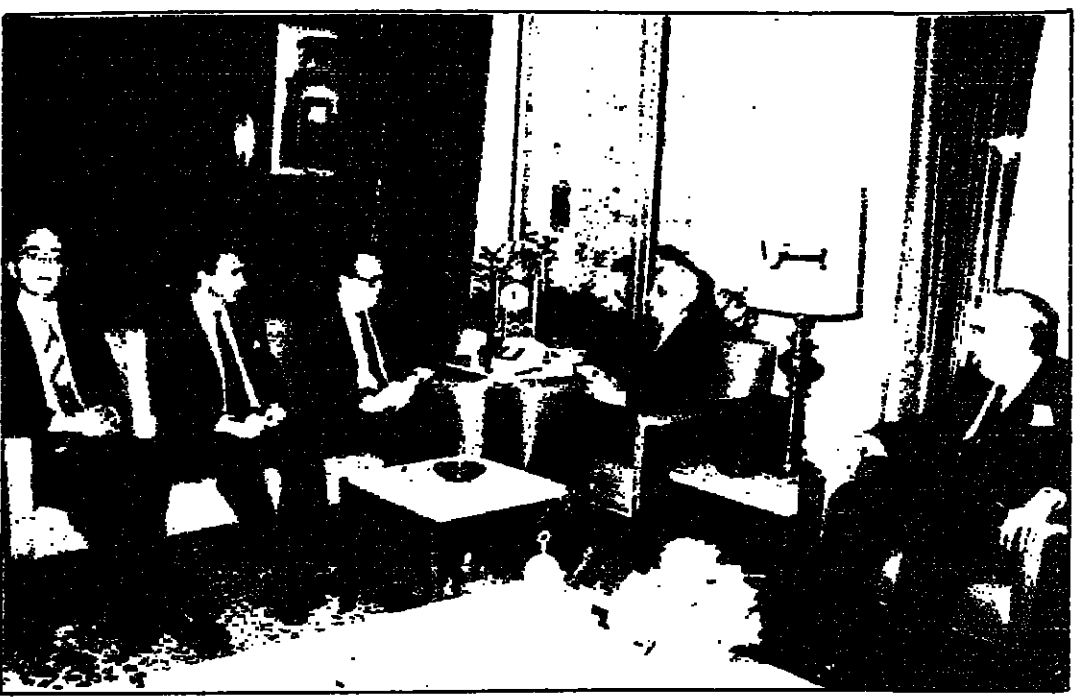
Because Jordan has come the furthest in terms of infrastructure, USAID chosen Jordan among the region's countries to hold the workshop. "We were very impressed by the way Jordan has created the correct environment for development and open market," Blackton commented.

The workshop was seen as very useful and successful by many participants of the region. One of the main issues that was tackled was the challenge of the 90's that would affect world markets, which would be followed up as part of USAID's goal.

According to Lance Marston, USAID director of private sector development office in Asia, Near East and Europe, the workshop highlighted the need to raise the standard of living, by freeing the economies from public sector control and identifying issues to meet the goals of the private sectors.

Blackton pointed out in an address to the workshop that "the increasing importance of economic well-being to people around the world suggests that long-term stability — as well as democratic liberalisation and the expansion of national and individual wealth — is best advanced by unleashing the economic potential of free markets."

This comes at a time when market based economies and private sector growth is progressively governing worldwide



Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday holds talks with Fernando Perpina, secretary-general of the Spanish Foreign Ministry (Petra photo).

Spanish, Jordanian officials hold talks on Euro-Arab cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Wednesday that Jordan was keen on giving momentum to the Euro-Arab dialogue based on historic ties between the two sides and the mutual benefits and continued cooperation towards construction and prosperity.

Speaking at a meeting with the visiting secretary-general of the Spanish Foreign Ministry Fernando Perpina, Qasem said that mutual cooperation between Europe and the Arab World can have most positive results, serving the interests of the European and the Arabs alike.

He reviewed Spanish-Jordanian ties with Perpina and discussed the situation in the Middle East region.

Qasem expressed Jordan's appreciation of Spain's stand vis-a-vis Arab issues and stressed the importance the Kingdom attaches to the European role in dealing with the problems of the Middle East region.

Perpina, who arrived here Tuesday, had a meeting earlier with the Foreign Ministry's Secretary-General Mu'tasem Al Bilbeisi with whom he reviewed means of further developing bilateral relations in the political and economic fields.

Finland supports Jordan's policy

AMMAN (Petra) — A Finnish parliamentary team now on a visit to Jordan met with Jordanian parliamentarians Wednesday and announced Finland's total support for Jordan's political stand. It said Finland would do all it can to extend economic support to the Kingdom.

The team members were speaking at a meeting with Jamal Saraireh, first deputy speaker at the Lower House of Parliament and other house members as well as the Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee.

Saraireh reviewed with the team members the history of parliamentary life in Jordan.

Referring to the situation in the Middle East, Saraireh urged Finland and the European countries to exercise pressure on Israel and the United States to stop Jewish immigration to Palestine.

He also spoke about the ordeal of the Palestinian people resulting from Israel's continued occupation of Arab land.

Ministry to probe into legality of FJLU's elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — The legitimacy of elections held by the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) last month will be decided on by a bureau specialised in interpreting laws, according to an announcement Wednesday of Labour Qasem Obeidat.

The minister said the decision was taken in view of a divergence of views about the elections and the controversy that came in their wake.

The minister said measures he had taken earlier will be frozen for the time being until the bureau submits its report to the government on this matter.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Czech leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel in which he congratulated him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on his country's independence day. His Majesty expressed hope of bolstering relations between Jordan and Czechoslovakia on the basis of the two countries' commitment to defend the political and human rights of all nations, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish a state on its national soil.

Queen Noor receives Bahraini princess

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday received Princess Lu'lu'a Al-Khalifeh, head of Bahrain's Mother and Child Care Society, who is currently visiting Jordan. Queen Noor briefed Princess Al Khalifeh on the activities and projects of Queen Noor Foundation. The Queen and the Bahraini guest also discussed the prospects of bolstering bilateral relations in the field of mother and child care.

Shreideh meets Pakistani official

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Al Shreideh met Wednesday the Pakistani secretary-general of the Ministry of Local Administration and Rural Development Hamoon Fayez Rasoul. The two discussed scopes of technical cooperation between Jordan and Pakistan in the field of rural development, and the Pakistani government's readiness to support the Regional Centre for Agricultural Reform and Rural Development in the Near East in Amman, Jordan. Rasoul represented his country in the centre's meetings which concluded in Amman Tuesday.

Tunisian official to attend ATF meeting

TUNIS (Petra) — The under-secretary of the Tunisian Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Al Munji Bou Sneina, will arrive in Amman Thursday on a several-days visit to Jordan. The Tunisian official is expected to participate in the seventh conference of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) general committee which opens its meetings in Amman Saturday. Bou Sneina told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he will meet with Ministry of Education officials to discuss promoting cooperation between the two countries in the field of education.

Scientific day held at Yarmouk University

IRBID (Petra) — A scientific day was opened Wednesday at the Faculty of Science at Yarmouk University. The activities of the day included exhibitions of scientific equipment used by the faculty's various departments as well as an exhibition of books and research papers.

Festival of Arab poetry to open in Salt

SALT (Petra) — An Arab poetry festival will be opened by Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki next Tuesday at Al Salt Cultural Centre. Taking part in the three-day festival, which is organised by Al Salt Development Corporation, will be a large number of poets.

YWCA tennis tournament opened

AMMAN (J.T.) — The YWCA spring tennis tournament started Wednesday May 9th, at the courts of the YWCA Jabal Amman, Third Circle and will continue till Friday May 18th. The events are mixed doubles, men's doubles and women's doubles. All people interested are invited to attend the games which will be held mainly in the afternoons.

Exhibition on construction materials opens in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A range of products from 64 Jordanian firms and factories specialising in construction materials were displayed Wednesday at the Amman international fair centre in Marj Al Hamam district west of Amman.

The five-day fair has been organised by the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) which is affiliated to the Ministry of Industry and Trade; it was opened by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz who stood in for his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

According to Maher Arabiyat, the fair's director, materials like glass, cement, brick, wires and cables, metal pipes, paint, nails, radiators, boilers, solar heaters, marble tiles, fibre glass, doors and shutters, were among the products on display.

The Housing Corporation, the Urban Development Department, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) cooperated in organising the fair, according to Arabiyat.

"The fair is intended as part of a national programme to promote the sale of Jordanian products here and abroad," said Arabiyat.

The minister toured various sections and was told that a total of JD 112.3 million in capital is invested in the construction materials industries in Jordan which employ more than 6,000 workers.

"The construction industries in Jordan account for 13.2 per cent of the total national industry, and employs 12.4 per cent of the total national workforce," according to Arabiyat.

He said that Jordan's 1988 exports of construction material amounted to JD 1.2 million or 3.8 per cent of Jordan's total exports and increased to JD 15 million in 1989.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition by Houria Al Iraqi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of traditional industries and handicrafts displaying rugs, knit-wear, traditional costumes and brass works at Madaba Resthouse.
- Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

THEATRE

- English play entitled "The Brodie's Family" at the Royal Cultural Centre (Friday at 8:00 p.m.)

FILM

- Feature film entitled "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" at the American Centre - 7:00 p.m.

JD 22m collected in customs

By Isam Qadamani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Central Customs Department in Amman Wednesday reported a total of JD 22,818,524 were collected in customs duty in the Kingdom in the past month.

The sum registered JD 5,031,559 more than the customs duty figures of April 1989, according to a department official.

According to the official, taxes and other fees collected during April 1990 amounted to JD 16,365,524 up from JD 12,883,377 in April 1989.

He said the Value Added Tax (VAT) last month registered an increase of JD 1,211,210 over the total collected tax in the same month of 1989.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab, political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Distractions don't work

MANY Jordanians have been appalled by the Interior Ministry's recent decision to ban male hairdressers catering to women. But what exactly is the aim of such a bad decision? It appears as though the hairdressers had not been given any reasons for such an arbitrary measure, since it was not reported in the press.

A lot of women in the country visit their hairdressers only once or twice a year, so such a decision is not going to affect them. But most should or do care about the implications of such a ban on the democratic experiment in Jordan. Such a decision is a violation of civil liberties and totally contradicts the democracy that is supposed to take its course in the Kingdom. Not only that, but it is also obvious that such a ban will lead to other decisions that will limit the freedom of individuals for no reason other than to cater for the whims of some religious or conservative groups in the country which do not represent the majority of the population.

It appears as though the decision, trivial as it may appear, was perhaps aimed at distracting the Jordanians from real issues that are facing our people and country. Why hasn't there been any solid talk and debate about finding real and practical and immediate solutions to our economic woes and other problems by those who advocate such measures? If the religious blocs in parliament promised their constituents to attempt to end corruption, solve totally our economic crisis and liberate Palestine, why are they lobbying for trivial matters that limit personal freedoms and do nothing positive in return? Is drilling into such issues and personal matters going to improve our national economy or liberate Palestine?

Another important question has then to be asked: Why is the government making such concessions, as it appears to so many, to those who are considered "the only organised political body in and out of Parliament" but who in no way represent the majority of Jordanians in and out of Parliament?

It is about time the government sees more clearly the real issues that face the country. There is a whole population out here that believes in real democracy, personal freedoms, civil liberties and the freedom of choice as guaranteed by the Constitution and the body of our laws. And it is about time to turn all attention on finding solutions to our pressing problems rather than focus minds on trivial issues that do not deserve to be on the agenda in the first place.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Dwelling again on the topic of an Arab summit, Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday said that it is meant not to solve differences among Arab capitals, but rather to chart plans for the defence of the Arab order. Not one single Arab country can confront and beat off the multinational conspiracy being hatched against the Arab Nation at present, and not one Arab state can by itself fend off all the dangers posed to the whole Arab Nation, said the paper. The Jewish immigration into Palestine, the threat to Iraq and Jordan and the continued occupation of Arab land in Palestine, said the paper, should rally the Arabs to meet at the summit level and deal with this dangerous situation. The Jewish immigration by itself constitutes a flagrant aggression on the Arabs because it threatens to swallow up their lands and endangers their existence, the paper continued. It said that the Arab masses look forward with seriousness to the coming summit which should have far reaching goals and should unite the Arabs for the common cause.

Writing in Al Ra'i, columnist Salah Abdul Samad voiced concern over the plight of the Palestinian students at Jordanian universities. The writer notes that these students have now lost all financial resources from their parents in the occupied Arab territories and hope to get urgent help from organisations operating in the Kingdom. Abdul Samad says that the national popular committee for supporting the Palestinian intifada is the most qualified body to offer such help under these circumstances because this committee has been gearing its efforts to back the Palestinian people under Israeli rule. The Palestinian students living in Jordan are part of the intifada, and are bound to return to Palestine to serve the Palestinian people following their studies in Jordan, the writer notes. He says that it is only fair and just that the committee should come to the aid of these students on humanitarian and nationalistic grounds.

Al Dustour daily on Wednesday commented on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's response to the anti-Iraqi campaigns in the West through a speech in Baghdad in which he reveals that Iraq has now acquired a sample of an American electronic device which Washington had said could be used as a trigger for nuclear weapons. The president's speech constitutes a source of pride for all Arab masses who see in Iraq a country with absolute self-confidence of its ability to lend support and assistance to the whole Arab Nation thanks to its military capacity, the paper noted. In his speech, the Iraqi president made it clear that Iraq does not intend to launch war nor to manufacture nuclear weapons, but it is rather prepared to defend Arab soil with all means available to it, the paper noted. It said that the speech can only fill the hearts of the Arab people with pride and re-establish self-confidence and enhance Arab dignity.

The cold war is over and everybody lost

By Dr. Hylke Tromp

The writer is professor of political science at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. The article is reprinted from the Belgrade-based Review of International Affairs.

Unless it is resurrected by artificial respiration, the cold war is over. Nobody won. Everybody lost.

The Soviet Union and its satellites are faced with stagnation, pollution, corruption, criminality, unemployment, alcoholism, illiteracy, and an increasing national debt.

The United States and its allies are faced with stagnation, pollution, corruption, criminality, unemployment, drug-abuse, illiteracy and an increasing national debt.

Both sides in the cold war have secretly dumped industrial, chemical and nuclear waste on their own soil, contaminating the air, polluting the water and poisoning their territory in order to defend it.

Both sides in the cold war have overstretched their economies as well as the social structures of their societies. The USSR now is in a state of poverty usually only found in Third World countries. The USA now is a state with a foreign debt unsurpassed by any other country.

Both parties have cut down instead of increased expenditures for education and social welfare in order to pay for the research, development, production and deployment of new generations of weapons-systems. In consequence, they are now faced with disintegration, alienation, illiteracy, organised criminality, drug abuse and high levels of unemployment.

Organised criminality and cor-

ruption are rampant in the United States and have become clearly visible in all layers of society, as is continually demonstrated by the power of mafia-like organisations as well as by unfolding scandals in government agencies such as the Pentagon. Organised criminality and corruption have become institutionalised in East European societies, where Communist party bosses are now revealed to be the mirrorimages of the mafia bosses in the United States. The abuse of alcohol in the Soviet Union has risen to such a level that Gorbachev had to start his term of office with declaring war on alcoholism. The abuse of hard drugs in the United States steadily rising already after the Vietnam war, has reached such a level that the Reagan government had to declare war on drugs.

At the same time, both "superpowers" are forced by their respective ideologies and the economic system based on them, to pay enormous amounts of money to millions of people for doing nothing, even if it goes under different names: "full employment" in the Soviet Union, "unemployment" in the United States. Ironically enough, democracy and totalitarianism have both produced high bureaucracies which are unable to deal with the problems they are facing.

The "superpowers", however, have succeeded in one respect: they have militarised the world. There is no place on earth that cannot be destroyed within minutes by one of their nuclear-tipped missiles. There is not one state who cannot dispose over means of mass destruction of the one or the other manufacture. There is not one state who cannot get loans to buy the outdated equipment of the superpowers for defending their "democracy" (vir-

tually nonexistent) or their "independence" (completely nonexistent). Non-state actors varying from terrorists to ethnic groups have a virtually unlimited access to weapons of all kinds. The weapons trade is one of the most profitable. In an "Armed America" more than 30,000 citizens are annually killed by these weapons during what is officially called the longest peace in recent history.

Ending the cold war is a difficult process. It seems now to have taken the form of a revolution from above. It had to be a revolution from above because a revolution from the bottom would never succeed. It is a revolution, because it involves changing foundations instead of appearances (like in détente). Foremost, however, it has to be a revolution in thinking and in perceiving and interpreting reality — which is the real revolution, because it requires giving up the belief in basic but unrealistic assumptions about the structure of the world and the nature of its occupants.

Such basic assumptions concern where the threat to peace comes from and how it should be countered, what military power and the use of political violence might achieve, and generally, that nuclear deterrence assures eternal peace. Changing such beliefs comes closest to what a conversion is in religion. It might require the social change following the transfer of power from one generation to another, from the cohort of fifty years old, as happened in the Soviet Union. In the meantime, ideological and doctrinal debates will lead to chaos and uncertainty. Politics will be characterised by oscillations and counteractions around old and new basic assumptions and the perceived consequences for the conduct of policy. Social unrest,

upheavals, secession movements and right — and left-wing fringes and sects will dominate the scene. All of them will have easy access to all kinds of weaponry. If they feel the need they will use it to demonstrate how just, rightful or serious they are, following the example not by states in the history of the anarchical states system. Whatever happens: peace will not break out, even if the direct threat of nuclear war between the superpowers will have become a nightmare of the past.

No military option

still, there is no rationality any more in pursuing political goals by military means. The record of the past century is disastrous. Whoever declared war, started war or relied on military means for achieving political goals, has discovered that the costs always surpassed the benefits — if he ever survived his decision to go to war, politically or physically. Only in exceptional cases there has been a clear victory. There was never a clear benefit, not even for the victor. Many actors have been destroyed by the war they started for some limited goal. The German empire, the Austrian-Hungarian empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Russian empire, all main actors in the first world war, didn't exist any more when that war ended; their chiefs of state having been forced to abdicate it not being overthrown or murdered. War as a political instrument has become a completely unreliable tool. Japan and Germany were defeated in the second world war. Only a few decades later, they emerged

again as world powers, if not in a military sense. The results of war have become completely unpredictable: the war over the Falklands between Argentina and England was officially noted down as a British victory. However, it gave democracy to Argentina, and Mrs. Thatcher to England.

Contrary to still vehemently held beliefs and assumptions underlying the policymaking process, the main instrument of power. It is economic power. Only in exceptional cases, in backward countries, or by regressive politicians, war is still seen and applied in the Clausewitzian sense of a continuation of politics with other means — and even then, usually only in internal conflicts.

That does not mean that there is peace — even if war has always been exceptional. Because it is so exceptional, it gets tremendous coverage in papers and history books. However, the number of annual casualties of war probably does not exceed now the number of traffic casualties on a world scale (more than 500,000 in 1988). Of a world population of more than 5 billion, the number of people involved in or actually fighting a war is neglectable. As a cause of death, war might range last.

Still, peace is not to be equated with the absence of war. War is only of the strategies in which political violence is applied. It concerns the specific case where states are using armed, "unformed and trained men to decide an issue by force, sometimes even according to previously agreed rules and laws. The use of violence for political purposes, however, is not limited to states.

Non-state actors and even individuals have always used violence too and now they will increasingly claim the right to do so. If not by proclamation than by action. The militarisation of the world through the East-West conflict and its consequences such as the arms race, have made weapons abundantly available for everybody who has a score to settle. As a consequence, political terrorism, appearing as a major problem since 1968, is gradually replacing war, in the threatening, terrifying and killing of innocent people as a means to achieve some political goal, by "strategies" such as hijackings, bomb attacks, hostagetaking, and direct murder. It is officially acknowledged as "low-intensity conflict", its social consequences still being played down. It is war, but in a different form.

These developments may change the scope of peace and disarmament research, but not its purpose. Preventing political violence remains the main issue. Essential is the description and analysis of the causes of political violence, and the prescription of what should be done to prevent the escalation of violence. This encompasses more than the simple counting of weapons systems, predicting technological improvements and assessing consequences for military strategy, which is actually the field of "strategic studies". It requires much more difficult studies and analyses of the state of human society on all dimensions: cultural, psychological, sociological, economical.

Peace and disarmament research is not over, when the cold war ends.

Domestic situation seethes in pre-election Romania

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania's political fabric is a crazy patchwork as the country prepares for its first free elections in more than 50 years. Voters seem frustrated and confused by a volley of issues and a jostling array of interest groups unleashed by the fall of the Ceausescu regime.

In Bucharest, supporters of interim President Ion Iliescu are pitted against anti-Communist critics who consider Iliescu a tool of Moscow and want him to resign before the May 20 national elections.

A round-the-clock rally of anti-Iliescu people began April 22 has transformed downtown University Square into a self-declared "Communist-free zone."

Up to 10,000 people have gathered to applaud nationally known personalities and workers from the provinces for their de-

mands that Iliescu step down because of alleged Communist sympathies.

Such acts have provoked at least one major counter-rally and rumours that the provisional government might use force to break up the protest in University Square.

The rally has been largely peaceful, but many Bucharest residents seem worried. They have been traumatised by decades of brutal Communist rule and hundreds of killings in the bloody December revolution that toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

There have been reports of politically motivated violence in the countryside — attacks on party headquarters and candidates. In Bucharest signs of frayed tempers abound.

Knots of gesticulating people form every day on the perimeters of University Square to argue about Iliescu — who was a senior Communist party official under

Ceausescu before he was deposed in the early 1970s. Iliescu's supporters call him Romania's saviour; opponents accused him of scheming to reintroduce Communist rule after the elections.

Such confrontations are won by whoever yells loudest.

"People here in the square hate Iliescu because he wants us to live in darkness," a black-haired woman shouted bawls as she thrust her face towards an Iliescu supporter.

"He doesn't want to keep Romania in darkness," her interlocutor retorted heatedly. "He wants to create a bright Romania."

Another woman suddenly joined the fray, her arm sweeping the people in the square behind her. "How can Romania become a prosperous country, if people camp outside like this without working?" she asked.

Some provincial cities also have been gripped by the mood of fear, suspicion and near-violence — most recently on April

29, when tens of thousands of Iliescu critics took to the streets in Timisoara, Dej and the port city of Constanta.

In Romania's less populated rural regions, horse carts remain the main mode of transport and people wait up to a week for telephone calls abroad. Rumours are accepted as fact by many with no access to television and unable to read newspapers.

"Is it true that the revolution has broken out in the capital?" asked a brightly-dressed gypsy woman hawking black-market cigarettes in Tecuci, a Moldavian town 250 kilometres northeast of Bucharest.

Less developed than other parts of Romania, Moldavia has been largely spared the political confrontation fuelling emotions elsewhere.

But the threat of instability lurks across the border in the Soviet Union where nationalism is on the rise among ethnic Romanians.

Local officials on the Romanian side want to keep such sentiments from spreading, and assert all is calm.

Romanians "seek no more than increased cultural ties with our brethren" across the border, said Vasile Dogaru, deputy mayor in Iasi, the cultural capital of Moldavia.

But even Iliescu is on record as saying Soviet Moldavia should eventually be returned to Romania. The region consists largely of territory annexed by Josef Stalin in 1940 under a secret protocol to his peace pact with Adolf Hitler.

Ethnic tensions of a different sort continue to heat emotions in Transylvania to the West. Historic rivalries between Romanians and Transylvania's large ethnic Hungarian minority exploded into the worst violence since the revolution in March.

At least six people were killed on the streets of Targu Mures, 300 kilometres northwest of Bucharest, and 300 were injured

before the army re-established order.

Many Romanians who deplored the Targu Mures violence said it was brought on by the ethnic Hungarians' alleged attempts to wrest control of Transylvania and rejoin it with Hungary.

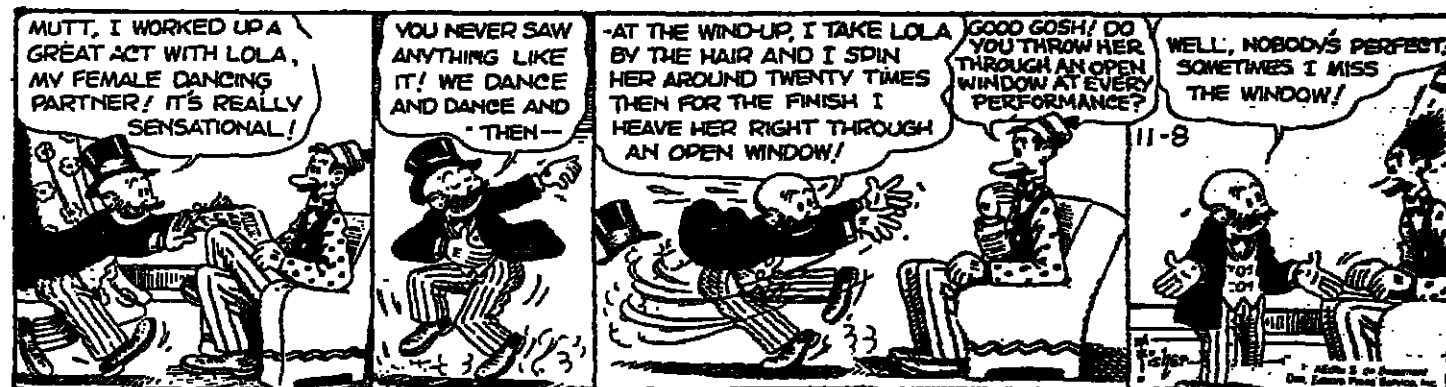
Embittered representatives of Romania's 2.2 million Hungarians deny such intentions, saying their struggle for full minority rights is being suppressed, as it was under Ceausescu.

Uneasy peace has prevailed in Transylvania since March. But the feeling is widespread that ethnic hostilities continue to ferment and could lead to violence around the elections.

Political and ethnic tensions are not the only sources of potential unrest.

Part of Iliescu's popularity rests on his government's ability to date to provide relative plenty after years of privation that contributed to Ceausescu's overthrow.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Handwritten signature: "دري، في 1990"

Jordan Times

WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Thursday, May 10

Rana Hajjar Ismail —

Mother, wife, and artist

By Hana Darwazah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Like most working mothers, Rana Hajjar Ismail has to work out the precise fine line that divides her time between being a wife, a mother and a working artist.

According to Ismail she began with oil paintings on gold and silver leaves, then she started experimenting on a sort of paste that she sculpted. After one year of experimenting she found a formula she was satisfied with and proceeded to refine her work. She has now been working on commercial scale for one year.

Unlike most working mothers, Ismail has the advantage of working at home which enables her to set her own hours, thus giving her husband and three year old son their fair share of her time.

Like most artists she is a moody person who works when her inspiration strikes

her. She might work hard for a few months then take it easy for a couple of months. So, in a sense, her work is more of a pleasurable hobby than it is a business. Ismail told the Jordan Times WEEKENDER.

The artist has so far participated in three local bazaars and one in Rome-Italy. She has plans for holding exhibitions in Amman, Bahrain and Rome in the coming few months.

According to Ismail, her work consists of making decorative display items: small plates, coasters, vases, bonbonniers and paper weights. All of her work is relatively small in size because she uses no tools, everything is done manually.

"An average piece I make would be 10x10 centimetre at most, its depth would correspond to the size of my hand, because I only use my hands, I use no tools in my work," Ismail said.

The artist uses a special blend of powders, oils and paste, and then the mixed dough is baked twice. According to Ismail, the resulting dough is very hard in texture and not easily malleable. "I cannot have anyone assist me in my work, because I have a certain image in my mind of how the final product should look like. Plus I have to be there all the time to oversee the whole process."

Most of Ismail's pieces are decorated with some sort of ornament, a little piece of gold or silver that takes her fancy, a piece of Venetian glass, semi precious stones, or an antique piece that her artist's eye picks out. It is actually these little bits and pieces that inspire her vision of what the finished product is going to look like.

"I might start out with an ornament that I have picked

up in Cairo for example, and this would usually set the tone for the piece I have in mind, rendering it oriental in character. Likewise, I might be inspired by a European ornament with the resulting piece of having a Western sort of look," Ismail said.

Ismail's background, bachelors of sciences from the Beirut University College, and having studied in Rome and lived in Hong Kong, undoubtedly all combine to give her work a special touch of simple beauty and elegance. Her sculptures have a certain marble leathery look. When she first started experimenting with her pastes, her products had a ceramic-like look; now after having refined her technique, her products have a porcelain-like look.

Ismail told the Jordan Times that an average piece usually would take her about one working day to make from scratch, or approximately eight hours. Being so time-consuming and the fact that

she works on her own, renders the artist unable to meet the demand she sometimes encounters. She sometimes has to cancel or decline orders, as was the case in a recent bazaar held on March 21 in Amman.

The artist sells her work from her home, in bazaars and occasionally in shops. "To me, my work is more of a pleasure than it is a business in the real sense of the word. I have to be in a certain mood to be productive, and that is my priority rather than the business aspect of my work," Ismail said.

Ismail believes that budding Jordanian artists are not given their fair share of media coverage. For example, in bazaars, the logical place to find new talent, one rarely sees the media doing in depth interviews with any artist. According to Ismail, artists do not only want to sell their work, they also need to feel appreciated as artists.



Rana Hajjar Ismail



Some of the decorative display items made by Ismail

5 artists show unlimited growth in their art production

By Nelly Lamin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Abdul Hameed Shoman Centre is the venue for an exhibition by five young Jordanian artists who have shown unlimited growth in their art production.

Ghada Dahdaleh presents a series of monochromes in square form into which she creates structural dimensions.

Stunning lit up areas appear intermittently as if resuscitating from the penumbra. Movement is either done by a frenzy of pencil striations swishing to and fro or by rhythmic repetition of patches especially where they appear within a frame very much in the fashion of the cobra school. Movement is also effected by the unsetting of large geometrical forms or in the movement of haze of light that appears within a darker frame. Seeing light and intensity of colour coming out from within the darkness is almost philosophical.

In her works, one seems to enter into the depths either gradually where volumes lead you on or directly, as you enter a lit-up frame into a dark angular interior. There, strong action is displayed by intensely coloured formations that seem to capture the light. With some other paintings your eye seems to start from the lit area within the background and gradually move out following the different layers of paint, of sketchy grids, etc.

Ghada mixes her colours by laying one layer over the other in different densities (even spraying), so that a great variety of shades and intensities is achieved, veil-like transparencies, hazy light areas and solid blacks.

Ghada's colour scheme tends to be sombre but with all the action, the surprises, the dimensional thrusts and the unsurpassed placement of strong intensities, the works

are obviously quite vivid and mature for such a young artist.

Rula Shakri uses the effects of a palette-knife to arrive to her miniature landscapes and rock formations. This she achieves mostly with a warm palette of earth colours varying from the depth of darkness to fiery intensities. She almost exhibits geological understanding of rock formations, striations and cracks, also the gradual advance of colour into stone etc.

Rula enhances the palette-knife effects with the fine structural drawings in ink. These either follow the already present forms, accentuating them or create architectural conglomerations, domed houses, steps leading on, etc. which help clarify perspective. Seldom do these profuse structures seem superfluous to the basic painterly effects.

Some of her works remind us of the mystic elements in Symbolist landscapes, especially where she incorporates greens and blues, maroons and oranges.

Mohammad Samara exhibits water colours and collages with tracing paper glued on to the surface. He paints within that paper and on its outer surface as well.

ART REVIEW

The exhibited works start with figurative drawings, quite linear in quality and anatomically realistic. The colour scheme used here is a serial light blue moving into lilacs and pinks.

His realistic structural drawing suddenly gives way to a more movement landscape where houses tilt and stretch. This articulation creates a state of uneasiness. This style develops into a battle of architectural forms that almost

pull themselves off a cliff. A mottled texture is applied to add antiquity to the domed houses.

Another development of style occurs; rough brushstrokes convey broken shapes in the background. Hammered wooden slabs and architectural motifs such as a monumental doorway engulf embracing figures. Cages and closed spaces confine human figures. Here again architecture is used to convey a psychological message. Folds in the transparent paper stuck on the surface contribute to the disheveled feel of the landscape.

In his next stage, the background flows with wet brush strokes while collage of vertical strips in varied intensities forms a disjointed conglomeration of structures portraying poles and wires, solitary slabs bearing nails, all seem to convey a restless brokenness floating in space. The upheaval of brush strokes in that space adds to the nervous quality of the painting. What better way of expressing the sordid of a people at war?

As one proceeds with a selection of his later works one finds the disjointed forms of creeping closer together starting to form a more meaningful mass as if it were to rebuild villages from the debris. The ultimate of all this is when a derrick carries a heart into the site as if to give life to the otherwise dilapidated village.

Adnan Yahya creates a much more gruesome atmosphere in his long vertical frames, and few horizontal ones. These incorporate abstract spaces, calligraphy, human and animal forms that together contribute to a boisterous movement which picks your eye from the bottom of the painting and leads it up in a variety of ways. You could pass through rough contractions, ride the waves heav-



Village reconstructed from debris by Mohammad Samara

ing to and fro, or shoot up like a rocket. This by no means leads you to soar upwards but always leads you from one violent motif to another, be it symbolic or figurative.

His palette is restricted to black and white with few crisp middle tones. Colour creeps in silently adding to the drama and morbidity of the scenes rather than giving them life.

Screams from open-armed appealing figures are contrasted by nocturnal silence. Everywhere, human figures seem threatened by jagged shapes and broken lines that slash forward crossing abstract space.

His oeuvre portrays a melodrama of mourning and wailing, the sorrow of the aged, the stunted innocence of childhood, the destruction of homes, the written appeals of a nation... The calamities of war.

Larissa Najjar transports us to a more peaceful atmosphere with nine heads carved in

sandstone. The features are always worked on the surface even where the face turns around a corner. Her works follow the law of frontality although she works all around them. Her lines, superficial or structural, vary from curvilinear stylisation to a more mechanical angularity. Where the features are robot-like, the general shape of the stone depicts a head tilted upwards in a rather feline manner. Is that enough to make up for the angularity and the intense red striation of the stone that traverses the diagonal shape? People seem to react in different ways to this particular effect. As for the mottled texture of some faces, it seems rather overbearing; but some seem to find in it the impressionistic spattered effect of the sun passing through foliage. Were the volumes more pronounced, the shades consequently appearing darker, the balance of texture and form would have been better maintained.

In the head of a man, however, the vein of the stone is used within the carving. Where this line slithers its way down the face, it enhances the tension created by the knotted brow. The general form is vertical, stands solidly on its base and with its frown and high cheekbones, emphasises the strong, masculine countenance.

A maroon face, mask-like with large almond eyes and a long nose pointing towards pursed lips is reminiscent of the works of Modigliani. Here form and surface rendering are perfectly compatible. It is essential to understand that these forms are filled gently with a rasp since the material, sandstone, does not lend itself to hammer-and-chisel carving.

The exhibition will open on the May 15 and will remain until the June 7.

The exhibition is open daily except Fridays from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on Thursdays until 8:00 p.m.

IT WOULD appear that a "shake-up" is underway in Royal Jordanian, the national carrier. We do not know the extent of the changes but information made available to the Jordan Times yesterday indicates that it may have more to it than meets the eyes. Captain Nasri Jumaian, vice-president for flight operations, is to be replaced by Captain Bader Estatieh as of Saturday. RJ employees see the move as an attempt of appeasement to the more conservative elements in Alia, since it apparently has something to do with the case of Captain Safwan Hussein who had refused orders to fly an aircraft to Paris while the plane carried liquor on board. Captain Hussein was to be disciplined by an inter-airline board, but the case drafted on to end with the change above. Officially, the case is not over yet, but reports suggest that possible shake ups will involve more movements than just captains Jumaian and Estatieh. We'll have to wait and see.

THE WELL respected and hard-working Swedish ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Lars Lonnback, will be ending his tour of duty after over three years of service here. The ambassador has been appointed as number two in the Swedish embassy in Copenhagen. Mr. Lonnback is proud of the many landmarks that he has achieved in Jordanian-Swedish ties and says he is looking forward to facing the "new challenge" in the Danish capital, which is an important outpost for Swedish diplomacy. The move is expected to take place in early July.

THE BOSTON Globe's correspondent in the Middle East, Mary Curran, is leaving her lengthy tour in the area to assume her new position as the newspaper's State Department correspondent in Washington D.C. Mary, who has been travelling to Jordan regularly from her Jerusalem base, will not be alone in her new Washington home, as she indeed was for much of her length of stay in the region. She is taking back her husband, peace activist Uri Nir, who has been appointed correspondent of the Israeli newspaper Haaretz in the American capital. Many visited the country she "dearly loves and admires (Jordan)" this week, accompanied by her successor, Walter Robinson, who had served as the Boston Globe's White House correspondent for several years. "Mary's act (in the Middle East) is hard to follow," Robinson was told. "I understand," he said, knowing full well what a wonderful job Mary has done in understanding and reporting the problems of the region and in making so many friends.

MUJIB'S Al Razzaz, a daily political columnist at Al-Dustour daily, has suffered a blow to his material possessions and to his faith in the possibility of ever having the criminals who did him in apprehended by the police. This week, his home was robbed while his children were in the house. All his wife's, mother's and sister's jewellery was stolen. So he called the police, who immediately responded by inspecting the scene of the crime and listing the missing items, but stopped there. In cases like this, according to security sources, police cars seldom give chase to the robbers, apparently because they are filled with only seven litres of gasoline, which could not possibly take them far if the robbers were escaping to a distant place. The sources complain that such problems as faced by the members of the police force and their cars is largely due to "lack of funds." How wonderful!

ONE Jordanian cabinet ministers apparently has been receiving prank calls at home. While the Jordan Times was attempting to call the minister concerned one evening earlier this week, a member of his family picked up the phone and told the caller off, before checking who it was, and hung up. The Jordan Times insisted on again calling the minister's home to verify a news story but was faced with the same "welcome" three times. Finally, the Jordan Times reporter in charge of the phone call (and the story) was able to get through only to find that the minister was not there. The story, of course, had to be verified with an official slightly less senior than the minister. But questions remained as to what lesser personalities would do when their homes received prank calls.

INVESTIGATIONS by the Jordan Times over the status of the Jordanian embassy in Moscow, its activities and its listing in the Soviet telephone book produced a picture much brighter than the one portrayed in the Jordan Times diary last week. According to several well-wishers, who contacted the Jordan Times over the past few days the Jordanian embassy has, thanks to the efforts of our new ambassador there, Dr. Mohammad Adwan, taken an active role of action and interaction with the Soviet government in all fields of cooperation and mutual interests between our two countries. And as it turned out the embassy is in fact listed in Moscow's phone directory albeit only in Russian for now. Heiradania they call us. Perhaps our vocalist friend who reported that it was not should have learned Russian before she ventured to highlight the misunderstanding reported in the diary last week. Perhaps now, the good news of our embassy there, will start flowing in the diary here, and elsewhere in the Jordanian media.

FORMER Chief Editor of Jordan Times Waleed M. Sadi is Jordan's official candidate to the 18-member U.N. Human Rights Committee. This international body is entrusted with the mandate to monitor states' adherence to the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. Dr. Sadi is the former Chairman of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and currently member of the Board of Trustees of the U.N. Fund for Victims of Torture. Elections to the Human Rights Committee are scheduled to take place in New York this coming September, and Dr. Sadi needs all the support he can get to make it through the electioneering process at the U.N. Good luck to our colleagues, editorial writer, columnist and good friends.

In the midst of great joy do not promise to give a man anything. In the midst of great anger do not answer a man's letter

— Chinese proverb.

Humility is the solid foundation of all the virtues.

— Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 B.C.-479 B.C.)

If mankind had wished for what is right, they might have had it long ago

— William Hazlitt, English essayist (1778-1830).

Goodness is the only investment that never fails

Henry David Thoreau, U.S. writer (1817-1862).

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important

— John Ruskin, English writer-art critic (1819-1900).

Norween Murad

JTV Channel 2 Weekly Preview

Thursday, May 10

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

The two sisters keep on fighting each other. The father banishes them to the floor down below.

9:10 Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week Peter Quinn

Starring Peter Strauss
Peter the private detective tries to solve the mystery of the gangster killings. He himself almost gets killed in the process but the end is a big surprise for everyone.

Friday, May 11

8:30 The Robert Guillaume Show

Edward is surprised when he learns that one of his customers is betraying his wife. Edward feels guilty and seriously considers quitting.

9:10 Beauty and the Beast

Vincent senses his death coming. He leaves the pipes searching for his destiny and his enemy is waiting for his appearance.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Quincy

A famous lawyer kills someone in a car accident. Was it really an accident. This is a job for Quincy to find out.

Saturday, May 12

Surgical Spirit

Educating Daniel

Sheila Sabatini discovers her son, Daniel, has been thrown out of boarding

school and nominates a reluctant Jonathan Haslam to tell him to behave himself. Haslam fails at his first attempt — but when Daniel discovers the discomfort his misbehaviour has caused everyone else, he promises to go back to school and be good.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Documentary: Mozart and Salzburg

In this documentary we will get to know something about the life story of the famous Austrian Classical Music composer of the 18th century.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film An Unsuitable Job for a Woman

Starring Paul Freeman
Billie White Law
A rich man's son, commits suicide and a young woman detective is asked to look into the case. She almost gets killed before she finds out that the son was a victim of some sort of a business deal.

Sunday, May 13

8:30 Who's the Boss Model Daughter

Samantha decides to get richer and richer so she enters into the world of fashion shows. She makes a lot of money.

9:10 The World of Puppetry

An inventive artist, Philippe Genty uses every facet of puppetry, which he prefers to call "the theatre of animation," from stringed marionettes to hand puppets. His work blends elements of mime, dance, black light trickery and night club revue. The visual

style used by his company constitutes an international language. As such, his shows have delighted audiences of all ages, throughout the world.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Poirot The Disappearance of Mr. Davenheim

Inspector Japp believes he's on to easy money when Poirot accepts his wager to solve the mysterious disappearance of city banker Mathew Davenheim, without ever leaving Whitehaven Mansions. But his bet is not so safe as Hastings pursues Poirot's oblique questions with commendable conviction.

Monday, May 14

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Balki's teeth need dental care, but he is afraid he will visit the dentist. Larry intervenes and convinces his cousin that he should do so — but Larry is in for a surprise.

9:10 FIFA Soccer

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Ginger Tree

In this episode Mary starts her successful fashion design business, and receives Kentaro's wife as a customer. Mary is still bent on retrieving her son. Toro Kentaro is no longer important in her life.

Tuesday, May 15

8:30 Charles in Charge

Charles falls in love. He has found the woman of his dreams. His friend, Barry, does the same, but something is fishy here ... a twin-sister?

9:10 The Nuclear Age

Here you get to hear about the origin of the cold war in the aftermath of World War II. When the Soviets possessed the atomic bomb in 1949 the arms race began in earnest. NATO is formed and China goes Communist.

10:00 News in English

10:20 In the Heat of the Night And Then You Die

Escaped convict Lester Sproules (Will Bledsoe) and his girlfriend, Audine (Mariska Hargitay), travel through Mississippi, leaving a trail of bodies in their wake, and eventually take Althea (Anne-Marie Johnson) and Scooter (Z. Wright), the grandson of one of their victims, as hostages in a desperate bid for freedom.

Althea offers to look after young Scooter, whose grandmother was murdered for a few dollars. While the Chief (Carroll O'Connor) and Virgil (Howard Rollins) hunt for the couple, Althea takes the young boy fishing, unaware of the terror that awaits them.

Wednesday, May 16

8:30 Laura and Disorder

Laura's latest adventure is treasure hunting but the consequences are not quite what she expects.

9:10 A Horseman Riding By

Paul continues to support the peasants and adopts this issues wholeheartedly. Grace leaves Paul for good and Paul starts life a new with Clair.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Hemingway

Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Ertman

PICTURE PUZZLE

By Frances Burton

- ACROSS
1 Probe
5 Red wine
10 Slew
14 Trucking ng
15 Commenda
16 dell
18 Corner molding
20 A Guthrie
21 MacLeod of TV
32 Paul Hogan
26 Spruce up
28 Bon — lavish society
27 Casual instrument
28 Linage
29 Car stop
30 School break
32 Adolescent
33 Striked lightly
34 Partner of long

- DOWN
1 Gospel
2 Fluff
3 Make reparation
4 Kind of room
5 Unassuming
6 Inquiries
7 Generous one
8 Toast cover
9 Package abov
10 Score wearer
11 Fiery
12 Mute a break for
13 Golf club end
14 Answer of Egypt
15 Conjure up
16 Bugged down
17 Slipovers
21 Order of the
22 Loss of water
24 Previously owned
29 — down the hatchway
31 Scale

Diagramless 19 X 19, By Harold B. Combs

- ACROSS
1 Most
5 High cards
9 Gentle
10 — Star State
11 — arms (indignant)
12 History
13 Parry
14 Blind grain
20 Former actor
21 Erwin
22 Hair styles
23 More lucid
24 Speechify

DOWN

- 1 Fuddy-duddies
2 Journal
3 — acid
4 Tears
5 Mountains
6 Armor suit
7 Guarantee
8 Tennis division
14 Kill
15 That girl
16 Nobleman
17 Melody

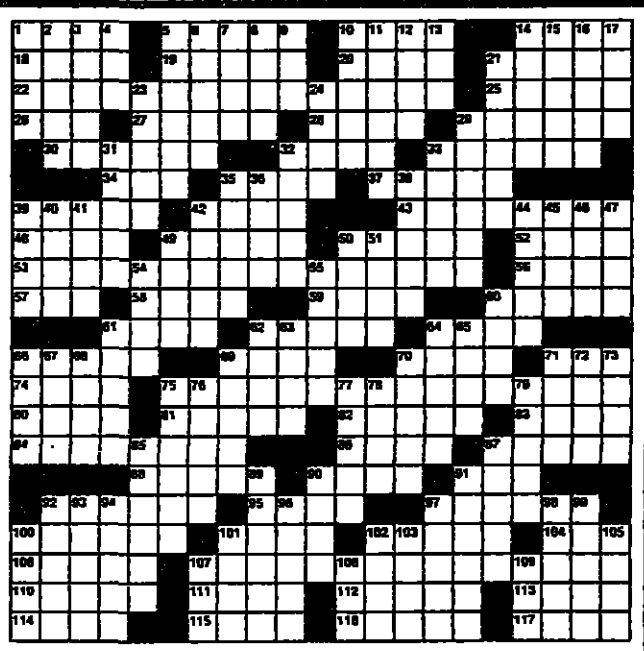
- 35 Gemstone
37 Old hat
38 Words to a hitchhiker
42 Ruffie one's
43 leathers
44 Unit of matter
45 — Heights
50 Beat the
51 days out of
52 Noble title
53 Mickey Rooney
54 Like a bump on
57 Very popular
58 Jet-black
59 Right as
60 Pick one's way
61 Dodo
62 Carbon copy

- 32 City on the edge
33 Kind of bean
34 Aspect
35 — poor
36 Lacquer
37 "What — God wrought"
40 HRE king
41 Pantheism
42 Stallone
43 Sleep under
44 — contemder
45 Short whip
47 Advantage
48 Street group
49 Blueprint
51 "A mixture of — owned
52 Metal tags for
53 — down the hatchway
54 Emblem one

- 25 Hoes for mixing
26 Proposed
27 Gone fishing
28 Endure
29 Uncle
30 Wives
31 Seafood item
32 Grease
33 Heat
42 Land mass
43 Conclude from evidence

DOWN

- 18 Some necklines
19 Formerly once
20 To — (irately)
21 Style
22 Branch
23 Actor's award
24 Unfaithful
25 Roadhouse sign
26 Laces
27 Is in charge
28 Lawmaking group



Last Week's Cryptogram

- Never be afraid to give us a smile. Nobody has yet died from laughter.
- Poor dealing mom was shocked when her little son didn't get homework while at camp.
- Young boy scout on outing in woods was unable to light the damp camp lamp.
- Real building boom in cool coastal Maine, famous for lobster and fog.

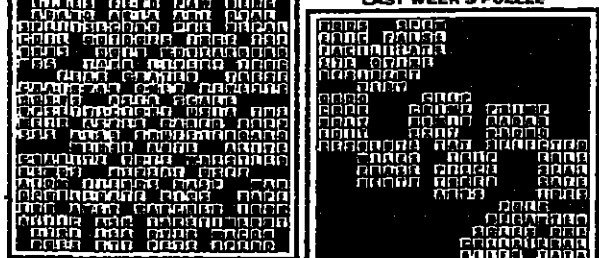
CRYPTOGRAMS

1. UGHBAD LEGSR WER WET JXXKR KXX
RWXDK LXD SAAT-LBXVEGH MDAAP, UGS
HXAR JUMP LXD YUSADR. —By Ed Huddleson

2. GRCIT WOV ZGCI MOCW MONP NGZF NASX
GC SGYOBE, NASXP CEATOVC IGB EAC ER
OC. —By Gordon Miller

3. ETUSMAY SWIL LUSSON MIL LWTIN RUSPR
UP MON OVOR UPRAOIL WE RAINR. —By Lois H. Jones

4. PAVW XSKM XSP LOMSWAMS SKYWITS
ZYNOX' YOLM MZTIVEZ MANS-WOE. —By Norton Rhodes



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

'The good, the bad and the ugly'

By Saad G. Hattar

THE current political impasse in Israel is the best produced, directed and staged soap opera so far. Starring Shimon Peres as the "good" and the smooth-faced Yitzhak Shamir as the "bad", the opera successfully took the international limelight as the two politicians cum actors were cunningly entangled in a tug-of-war on who would eventually form a crippled government — one that ostensibly will be entrusted with seeking a peace settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The "ugly" is played by religious figures who hold the leash for ultra-right wings, which can make or break any future government be it hawkish or dovish. But throughout the avant-garde production those sages took a back seat leaving the ring to the hawk and the dove for the final bout. They possessed, nevertheless, a tangible clout that could determine the course of action and even draw out the finale.

Judging from the rehearsals, the play is the brainchild of the "good" who had thought it over with the "bad" at tea time in the presence of their wives.

"The Arabs are pressing us hard with their peace overtures. If they continue their peace offensive we will eventually succumb to a comprehensive settlement and there will be no more settlements in the territories," the "good" said.

"I totally agree with you Shimon. Their successive peace moves have crippled us and even foiled our long-planned blitzkrieg for the creation of Eretz Israel," the "bad" snapped back.

"Now that the world has finally come to realise how peaceful the Arabs are, we can never send our tanks rolling in their big cities. Nor can our jets zoom low over their plains," the "good" said.

It was then that the soap opera was hatched to buy time for the Israelis to fight back peace moves.

The first chapter sheds light on a political showdown between the two actors when the "bad" turns down peace initiatives suggested by the U.S. administration, widely believed to be the sponsor of the play performed on the world stage.

In the second chapter the "bad" resigns paving the way for the "good" to lead the nation while he heads a caretaker government.

In the second scene the "good" fails in his ominous mission under successive political pounding by the "bad" who still held the ace under his sleeve.

The "bad" stages a successful bounce back in the third scene. He is now preparing to form a right-wing government — a process expected to take at least another ten days.

In the meantime peace hopes are fading away. The "bad" and the "good" are hoping by now to make peace on their own terms, through the events to come in the fourth scene.

In that scene the race for congressional elections in the United States will have kicked off, in which time the "good" and the "bad" settle their theatrical differences. Before the curtain goes down, they — the "good" and the "bad" — will have used every trick in the book to exploit the elections for the benefit of "Eretz Israel."

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, May 10

1796 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Austrians at Lodi in Italy campaign.

1857 — Sepoys revolt at Meerut, starting Indian mutiny against British rule.

1871 — Treaty of Frankfurt ends Franco-Prussian War. France cedes Alsace-Lorraine to Germany.

1875 — Religious orders are abolished in Russia.

1933 — Paraguay declares war on Bolivia.

1940 — Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigns in World War II, and Winston Churchill forms government; Germany invades Holland, Luxembourg and Belgium.

1957 — Soviets appeal to United States and Britain to halt nuclear tests.

1967 — U.S. jet planes bomb power plants in North Vietnam's port of Haiphong for first time in Vietnam War.

1971 — Former Nazi Rudolf Hess finishes 30 years imprisonment, and Soviets insist he serve full life sentence in Berlin's Spandau Prison.

1972 — South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu declares state of martial law.

1976 — Israel announces plans to establish numerous additional settlements in occupied Arab territory.

1987 — Beirut (Lebanon) International Airport reopens after 99-day shutdown.

1988 — United States vetoes U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's "invasion" of southern Lebanon.

1989 — His Majesty King Hussein indicates that detainees from wave of rioting would soon be freed.

1745 — French under Marshal Saxe defeat English at Fontenoy and conquer Austrian Netherlands.

1812 — Britain's Tory Premier Spencer Perceval is assassinated in House of Commons.

Commons.

1824 — British forces take Rangoon in Burma.

1878 — Radicals attempt to assassinate Germany's Emperor William I.

1943 — U.S. forces land at Attu in Aleutian Islands in World War II. It is first American territory regained from Japan.

1949 — Siam changes name to Thailand.

1971 — Temples at Angkor Wat are damaged by artillery fire in fighting between Cambodian government and Communist forces.

1973 — Lower house of West German legislature ratifies treaty establishing formal relations between the two halves of divided Germany.

1975 — Laos Premier Souvanna Phouma virtually concedes Communist victory in his country.

1987 — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government imposes direct federal control on Punjab state due to continued violence by Sikh separatists.

1988 — Guatemalan army says it quashed attempt by disgruntled officers and soldiers to overthrow President Vinicio Cerezo's civilian government.

1989 — Britain's new Official Secrets Act gets royal approval, despite criticism that it marks government assault on public's right to know.

Saturday, May 12

1608 — Protestant Union of German princes opposing Catholic bloc is formed at Annhausen.

1689 — Britain and Holland join League of Augsburg, which becomes the Grand Alliance.

1881 — Bey of Tunis accepts French protectorate over North Borneo and Brunei.

1897 — Turks defeat Greeks in Thessaly and major powers intervene in war.

1915 — Forces of South

Africa's Louis Botha occupy

Windhoek, capital of German South West Africa.

1926 — Josef Pilsudski stages coup in Poland.

1938 — Germany recognises Emperor of Manchukuo; Japanese warships capture Chinese island of Amoy.

1943 — Battle of North Africa ends in World War II with German surrender of Cap Bon in Tunisia.

1962 — South African general law amendment bill imposes death penalty for sabotage.

1963 — West Germany establishes diplomatic relations with Israel, and Arab states break off relations with Bonn government.

1975 — United States announces that Cambodian naval ship has seized U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez in international waters 60 miles off Cambodian coast.

1988 — World Health Organisation says more than 34,000 AIDS cases have been reported worldwide.

Sunday, May 13

1779 — France abandons Goree, West Africa, to Britain.

1809 — French army under Napoleon Bonaparte takes Vienna.

1871 — Law of Guarantees in Italy declares Pope's person inviolable and allows him to possess the Vatican.

1888 — Serfdom is abolished in Brazil.

1962 — Gunman tries to assassinate Indonesia's President Sukarno, but Sukarno escapes injury.

1968 — Peace negotiations officially open in Paris between United States and North Vietnam.

1969 — More than 100 people are reported killed in race riots in Malaysian city of Kuala Lumpur.

1970 — Israel attacks Palestinian bases in Lebanon.

1973 — Nineteen nations begin talks in Vienna aimed at cutting number of troops in

Europe.

1975 — U.S. Marines, warships and planes are placed on alert in Western Pacific after seizure of U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez by Cambodians.

1988 — Riot police storm sacred Haram Al Sharif complex in occupied Jerusalem and fire rubber bullets at Muslim worshippers.

Monday, May 14

1610 — Francois Ravallac, a fanatic, assassinates France's King Henry IV who is succeeded by Louis XIII, age 9, with Maria de Medici, the queen mother, as regent.

1702 — Sweden's King Charles XII takes Warsaw.

1791 — British under Lord Cornwallis overthrow Tipoo of Mysore at Seringapatam in India.

1897 — Britain, by treaty with Ethiopia, abandons certain claims in Somaliland but Emperor Menelik refuses to surrender claims to land near the Nile.

1921 — Fascists gain in Italian elections.

1948 — British mandate in Palestine ends, the Arab legion marches on Palestine and enters Jerusalem.

1964 — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev opens Aswan Dam in Egypt.

1972 — Okinawa reverts to Japan after 27 years under U.S. jurisdiction.

1975 — United States announces the Marines have recaptured by force the U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez which had been seized by Cambodians, and that U.S. planes destroyed three Cambodian naval vessels.

1977 — Soviet newspaper Pravda warns West that any aid to China eventually will be used to start world conflict.

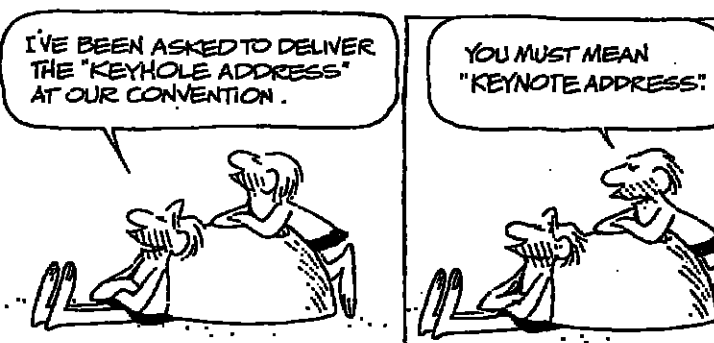
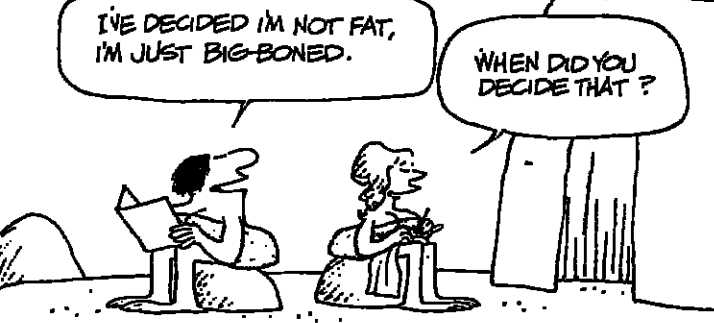
1987 — Armed troops storm Fiji parliament, declaring military government after kidnapping prime minister and his cabinet in South Pacific's first coup.

1988 — Iraqi warplanes attack and set ablaze five ships at offshore oil-loading terminal that belongs to Iran.

1989 — Baltic nationalists call for economic independence from Moscow by following year.

By the Associated Press

B.C.



درد، می کشد

Jordanian sculptress makes her mark abroad

Layla Haddad — a creative and capable artist

Text and Photos
by Nelly Lama

ONCE, in 1985, I happened to see a sign at the Alia Gallery of Fine Arts, then in the Villa Rosa, stating that there was a sculpture exhibition by Layla Haddad. I ventured in and found myself breathless at the fluid polished bronze forms exhibited there. They stated biomorphic shapes both literally and abstractly. Birds in

Flight for example, showed three large birds taking off with great momentum. The tips of their wings were stuck together, but they seemed totally free, since their thrust went into alternate directions. Another, gold-plated, represented a bloom zooming out from a point in the base and curving out into a three-petal form that breathes suavely and smoothly. Other forms represented a stylised seated figure, dancing girls or totally

abstract formations.

Knowing what a hurdle sculpture is and finding that the sculptor in this case went through every stage of modeling and mold-making, I was decided to keep in touch with this creative and capable artist. Yet, as soon as I came to live in Amman, Layla Haddad had just wed Dr. Werner Wagner and left the country for no nearer than Taipei. This did not discourage me seeking the whereabouts of her

works. I was indeed rewarded. Layla had made a mural at the Prince Ali Theatre, Haya Cultural Centre, a relief that spread out to 15 square metres. Another more recent one was made at the pool side of Mohammad and Stefania Khleifeh, to highlight their modern if not avantgarde villa. Here Layla returned to the Assyrian reliefs she had seen in the Baghdad Museum as she prepared for her B.A. in English Literature there.

Deriving from that the tree forms and technique of perspective in low relief, Layla depicted a village scene, carved in pink bricks, which seem to emerge from the white stuccoed wall, imitating archaeological sites. The landscape in the distance is etched out, it is juxtaposed with a large tree in higher relief on one side and a peasant woman on the other.

A surprise factor makes the whole mural more contemporary, the figure, rendered in the round, of a woman bearing a jar on her head, also made of brick. Spread the length of the indoor pool, it creates a peaceful and pleasant atmosphere with its repeated curvilinearities.

In Taipei, Layla thrived what with the craftsmen and availability of materials there. She went around picking rocks with interesting forma-



Layla Haddad

tions, those that inspired her with zoomorphic images. Later, in her studio, she completed these forms by adding self-hardening clay as well as metals such as steel, copper, brass, and bronze in sheet or string form... anything that helped her reach her optimum.

In the sculptures of this period, Layla never loses her sense of humour. She stays true to her claim that one's oeuvre is an amalgam of all one's past experiences, from

the fairy tales of childhood to the experiences of the person's full maturity.

So her rocks take the form of her own mythological animals. Each image is conveyed by a prominent feature like a large nostril and open crevice that ends in The Talking Bull, or pointed triangular form with decorations on top forming King Rat, a hook-nosed face inspires her with Quasimodo, but the best of all is the form of a ram's head to which she adds undulating horns and nostrils.

Layla's ingenuity lies not only in her conveying the full image as needed, but in perceiving the initial form in the stone. You can see the perceptive eyes of the sculptor roaming, combing out the quarry. She compared this experience to that which we all have shared in our youth, looking at clouds and seeing living forms in them.

Soon her solid stone heads acquire flat, transparent plexiglass bodies. Moon Bather, for example, gets a finished stone head showing a caricatural profile, superimposed on a sheet of plexiglass cut to the humorous contours of a fat naked male figure.

Another style of hers is her superimposing the same sort of heads on "quilled" metal strips. Quilling is the art of twirling long thin paper strips around a pencil to form



Birds in Flight

scrolls which are then loosened slightly and glued on flat paper within a given frame in the manner of filigree.

Here Layla's work is the metal version of quilling. Her ultimate work, the Dragon, bears a very representative face, pronounced eyes, expanded nostrils, antennae and all. The body formed by folded strips of sheet-metal is coloured red. Made during

the year of the Dragon, it was acquired by the Jordanian Consulate and offered to the Taipei Municipality.

The Mayor of Taipei thus inaugurated her solo exhibition at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum which incorporated all these works.

Layla will soon move to Frankfurt, Germany and hopefully keep us informed of her progress in the world of sculpture.



Pool-side Relief

Brussels showman pulls the strings for sharp-tongued puppets

By Eva Kaluzynska
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Belgians developed a taste for puppet theatre in the 19th century when they flocked to see 72 episodes of the three musketeers played by marionettes.

Today, despite rival attractions, Brussels' master puppeteer Jose Geal again performs to packed houses at his theatre in the heart of the medieval city centre.

"I opened in 1968. When my predecessor closed down in 1963, no-one was interested," he said. "But I am a puppeteer, an actor and a theatre manager. I believed in the puppets, I was tempted to try after staging a few private shows."

He cut the adaptations of legends, religious plays and classics down from three or

more weeks to two hours, but in all other respects, stays faithful to tradition.

The real heroes are always streetwise, sharp-tongued Brussels folk who invariably outwit their superiors, whatever the plot and location. Woltje, a cheeky Brussels lad in a check suit with matching cloth cap, gets a part in all shows.

The marionettes and scenery, much of which depicts the streets of the city, are in the original style and the 150-seat theatre's wooden benches are covered with patchwork cushions.

Geal has tried to preserve the original atmosphere without making the theatre a museum.

"The puppet theatre was a cheap and warm place for a night out. There wasn't much entertainment for people who couldn't read and write," he

said.

A former actor with Belgium's national theatre, Geal does all the voices himself. He ranges from pinched aristocratic French to broad Brussels slang full of untranslatable local colour.

Children are allowed in, but the humour is for adults. In the 1930s, one of Geal's predecessors caused an uproar and had his theatre shut down for a scene showing a couple of naked puppets in bed.

Today's puppet musketeers nicht discuss the latest row in the European Community, or the fortunes of their favourite football teams.

"The shows traditionally included running commentaries on everyday life. Mine do the same. They're not academic folk art," Geal said. "Geal's company is known

as the Theatre Toone. He is the city's seventh 'toone' (Antoine), named after Antoine Genty, who set up the first theatre in 1830. Each Toone nominates his successor.

At the height of the puppets' popularity, there were 40 theatres in Brussels alone, including Toone's. But their fortunes saw-sawed and eventually they lost out to more modern entertainment.

One of the Toones hanged himself among his puppets in despair at dwindling audiences in the 1920's. Another had his theatre and puppets destroyed by the only flying bomb to hit Brussels in World War II.

Geal inherited a sadly neglected company but found it a new home in a carefully restored 17th century house down a narrow cobbled alley.

Creative German fashions

Hilde Simsek

DÜSSELDORF — Narrow shoulders, plunging décolletés, skirts with high slits, delicate fabrics, blouses beneath subtle drapings, glitter effects even on everyday apparel — these are some of the trends for the autumn/winter fashions for 1990/91. They dominated the collections presented in March by more than 2,100 exhibitors from 42 countries — including the German Democratic Republic (GDR) — at the IGEDO Fair in Düsseldorf, the largest fashion fair in the world.

The fashions for 1990/91 employ a romantic and playful touch to accentuate feminine curves. The wearer can choose her own hem length, with everything "in" from short to ankle-length. The same applies to the choice of narrow or wide skirts. Distinctive fabrics are the important thing. Natural fibres are in demand — wool, velvet and silk for day and evening wear, heavy wools, too. Jeans-wear also met with a favourable response, as it did at the "Mens-wear Fashion Week 1990" in Cologne.

A visitor at this year's IGEDO Fair had an opportunity to discover many interesting de-

tails, such as hooded dresses, coats and even T-shirts. Many manufacturers processed heavy wool into artificial furs so natural-looking that women will be able to safely wrap themselves in "furs" next winter without being bothered by a guilty conscience. Colours can be matched to suit one's fancy, some of the most popular being woolly whites, bright reds, yellows, earth tones, luminous greens and blues. And black is still a favourite.

Admirers of German fashion can be found all over the world. In international circles it has acquired a reputation for being creative and is associated with top-quality designs that can be worn with elegance. The German textile industry is able to accommodate the fashion preferences of today, situated as it is between the extravagances of French "haute couture," the playfulness of Italian "alta moda," and the rather severe lines of English fashions.

Annual figures showing a turnover of around 13 billion marks — a substantial portion of this involving exports — confirm that the German fashion industry is one of the most productive in the world — Inter Nationes Press.



German fashion designs are not only known for their elegance. Sporty jeans-wear sells very well in Düsseldorf and Cologne, Germany's internationally known fashion centres. Jeans are in demand again with new styles and a wide range of colours.



MAP



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Paris Anti-Poison Centre is unique in its efficiency

By Patricia Meglio

PARIS — The Paris Anti-Poison Centre was created in the Fernand Widal Hospital in 1959. On a European level, it is the top such centre and has an international reputation.

Its rôle is to give help, by telephone, in diagnosing and treating cases of poisoning. Every day, it receives over 200 phone-calls from Paris and its region, from the French overseas departments and territories and from abroad.

Its mission is based on four principles.

First of all, its help in toxicology is given to each and every caller whoever he is (doctor or private individual) and whatever the circumstances of the call or its origin.

Secondly, the answer is given right away, in emergency conditions, 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Sometimes the caller is phoned back or a letter is sent later on, particularly in the case of chronic poisoning caused, for instance, by the

profession or by an accident in therapy.

Moreover the service is provided free of charge without any fee for the consultation.

Lastly, it is a dialogue, a real consultation over the phone. The doctors at the Paris Anti-Poison Centre (CAPP) suggest useful further tests and diagnoses, and propose suitable treatment.

The CAPP's activities are pluridisciplinary: professional toxicology, industrial medicine, food hygiene, suicidology, intervention in the case of pollution, prevention of domestic accidents and toxicomania. All the doctors in the centre are thus skilled and experienced in toxicology.

The field of action of the Paris Anti-Poison Centre thus covers all kinds of poisoning, 94 per cent of cases are acute, mainly accidental poisoning. One call in two concerns young children (more often boys than girls) aged between 18 months and 3 years.

The majority of cases are classical accidental poison-

ing, a child coming across a potentially poisonous substance, by chance, at an age when putting something in the mouth is a way of discovering the environment. The times when a child is hungry or thirsty and finds himself in a place presenting a risk are occasions which favour poisoning.

In 60 per cent of cases, the products responsible are medicines and in 25 per cent of cases domestic products. The substances most often used are ones from everyday life. The large range of chemical substances used, accounts for the diversity in the forms of poisoning: bleach, household cleaners, solvents, home pesticides, products for unblocking drains, anti-rust liquids, but also cosmetics.

With adults, 2/3 of cases of poisoning are between the ages of 15 and 35. More than 2/3 concern suicide attempts (women more than men). In 78 per cent of cases, the products responsible are medicines. But they can also be industrial accidents, toxicomania, mistakes in treat-

ment, massive pollution of the environment, contaminated food and, more rarely, the consumption of harmful plants or attacks by animals.

The remaining 6 per cent group together the cases of chronic poisoning, poisoning caused by one's work, undesirable effects of medicines, and water, air or food pollution.

The questions asked vary. It is nearly always a matter of the behaviour to adopt in acute or chronic poisoning, its diagnosis, its treatment and the prevention of a relapse.

The kind of callers is also very varied. The CAPP replies to everybody, even when it is an animal which has been poisoned, although there is a Veterinary Anti-Poison Centre.

For a doctor, the answer, above all, concerns diagnosis and treatment. Hospital doctors and emergency medical aid (SAMU) doctors call more often than general practitioners who ring up the SAMU or have someone sent to hospital in an emergency.

Industrial doctors, above all, ask for the necessary tests to keep an eye on workers exposed to any hazards, or they rely on medical and technical prevention to limit the exposure.

For the public, the Paris Anti-Poison Centre shows the scale of seriousness of the poisoning and the degree of urgency with which supervision and medical treatment should be given. It should also be pointed out that the anonymity of those poisoned is always maintained.

Whether it is in reply to a doctor or to a member of the general public, the answer makes two essential points. The first concerns the respect of any possible contra-indications, which is even more important than giving treatment. The second point concerns the prevention of relapses, such as preventing a child from poisoning himself again through a psychiatric consultation with the doctors. The CAPP is organised to deal with all these needs.

Medical documentation in toxicology (books and re-

views) is abundant. The CAPP uses the "Asitest" National Toxicology Information Centre which, for 25 years, has been keeping a record of toxicology from 800 papers. The Paris Anti-Poison Centre keeps up to date with observations made about every call. That is to say about 140,000 calls a year in France. It is then possible to draw up statistics on poisoning in France, to define groups of the population at risk and to gain better knowledge of the toxicity of different products.

In addition to its essential rôle of providing information on toxicology, the CAPP also plays a part in medical research. By recording case observations in computers, its researchers can publish articles in medical journals or take part in conferences on the human toxicity of various products on the market. It is thus possible to improve treatment and to give preventive information to industrialists, public authorities, the media and the public — L'Actualité en France



Children are the most exposed to accidental poisoning.

Carbon monoxide poisoning —

the most common in France

By Patricia Meglio

PARIS — Of all the forms of atmospheric pollution of inhabited or occupied premises, the most frequent and most dangerous is due to carbon monoxide gas.

In France, it is the first cause of death from poisoning. Every year, there is an average of one death a day from it. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, and, above all, odourless gas.

The different sources of carbon monoxide result from combustion in various appliances. In order of frequency, there is the water-heater, the coal stove, gas heating, wood heating, the stove-boiler, the gas cooker, the heater, camping gas, exhaust fumes and fires.

Carbon monoxide poisoning from water-heaters is, by far, the most common in France. In most cases, it is hard to make a diagnosis if it is not systematically mentioned, as the symptoms are common, with headaches, problems of consciousness, nausea and vomiting.

It is thus necessary to insist on the importance of the first

signs of poisoning, particularly digestive signs (nausea and vomiting as they can lead to an error in diagnosis and make one think of food poisoning). The symptoms of disorders in behaviour should not be neglected either. These can make a person behave as if he was drunk.

In 85 per cent cases, the causes of CO poisoning are due to the use of appliances not having a system for evacuating combustible gases which are the main source of carbon monoxide. Moreover, the compulsory regulations concerning the ventilation of closed areas in which these appliances work, are rarely respected, with existing, blocked or inadequate high ventilation.

In fact, it is the ignorance of users on the possible danger of these appliances and the correct way of using them (low supply of fresh air, evacuation of waste gases, installation, maintenance, suitable ventilation, etc.) which causes this poisoning. This leads to the necessity of prevention which is fundamental in this kind of accident, with information campaigns by the media (television commercials) to make the public

aware of the dangers.

The use of other appliances whose combustion gives off CO remains an even more complex problem as, for the heating devices made to be used outside (such as camping gas), it is a social problem. Indeed, poisoning from these kinds of appliances is often caused in the most underprivileged strata of society in which people live in precarious conditions and do not even read the warning one the appliances, not suspecting that there may be a risk linked to combustion. This category can include all the makeshift or worksite braziers used in a closed room.

Accidental poisoning by exhaust fumes is rare. In the case of a fire or a big volcanic eruption, the result is stoppage of breathing and the casualty suffocates.

As opposed to these acute forms of poisoning, there is also chronic poisoning which develops slowly but which is just as dangerous. This form is mainly characterised by headaches, dizziness and tiredness combined with digestive problems.

When the consequences of serious carbon monoxide



Hyperbaric oxygen is very efficient in fighting carbon monoxide poisoning.

poisoning do not lead to death, they can leave disabling sequels on the cardiac, respiratory, nervous (Parkinson's syndrome) and psychic (problems of memory, dementia) system.

For all these reasons, as soon as there is the slightest doubt, a diagnosis of CO poisoning should always be seen as a possibility. A test for the amount of CO in the blood will then make it possible to reject or confirm it. In all dubious cases, if, for technical reasons, a blood test cannot be made, treatment

should be undertaken. Its basic principle consists in eliminating the CO from the red blood corpuscles by using huge amounts of oxygen. If it is possible, or in serious cases, high-pressure oxygen is used as its power eliminates the CO in the blood faster and more effectively.

However, much remains to be done to inform the general public about the risks of carbon monoxide so that this worrying form of poisoning does not cause any more casualties — L'Actualité en France

30 years of 'the pill' haven't solved all birth control issues

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Thirty years after the birth control pill revolutionised the sex lives of millions, medical experts and consumers complain the revolution still has a long way to go.

More women — 14 million in the United States and 60 million worldwide — use the pill than any other reversible method of contraception.

Its long-term health risks are mostly confined to women over 35 who smoke and there are indications it may help prevent ovarian cancer.

"The pill was the biggest breakthrough for giving women control over their reproductive lives of anything that came along until legalised abortion," said Louise Tyrer, vice president of Planned Parenthood.

Tyrer and other family planning professionals met in San Francisco recently for a contraception conference held only coincidentally with the pill's 30th birthday.

The sexual revolution, born on May 9, 1960 when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the pill,

has failed in the United States. If judged by the one to three million unwanted pregnancies and 1.5 million abortions which occur every year, health professionals say.

"There is a crying need for better contraception and the government has turned its back," said David Grimes, University of Southern California epidemiologist and chairman of the conference.

A federal panel reported in February that available contraceptive methods are "not well-suited to the religious, social, economic or health circumstances of many Americans."

The panel blamed half of the annual abortions on contraceptive failure. It also said the United States lags behind other countries in available contraception methods.

Congresswomen Olympia Snowe of Maine and Patricia Schroeder of Colorado have introduced a bill which would provide additional federal funding of \$75 million for contraception and infertility research. A similar bill is pending in the Senate.

Women in Finland, Sweden and 134 other countries are using Norplant, which is implanted under the skin of the arm and is supposed to prevent pregnancy for five years. But Norplant can cause bleeding between menstrual periods.

The Population Council in

New York, which sponsored tests of the drug in this country, expects Norplant to be approved by the FDA. An injectable drug, Depo-Provera, which is supposed to prevent pregnancy for three months, is used around the globe but has not won approval in the United States because, opponents claim, it has not been tested sufficiently.

Ortho, manufacturer of the birth control pill, is the only American company and one of three worldwide doing contraceptive research. An Ortho official said the company spends about \$140 million developing, researching and testing a new drug before it reaches the market.

Supporters of contraception research blame its lack in the United States on what they consider the anti-birth control stance of the Reagan and Bush administrations, and the reluctance of drug companies to market potentially litigious drugs.

Even if the pill is not perfect, experts and consumers agree it is better than birth control devices that preceded it.

Ancient Chinese advised women to swallow 24 live tadpoles in early spring, promising this would prevent conception for five years. North African women once drank a solution of gunpowder and camel sweat to prevent pregnancy.

Research in the forefront

fighting against AIDS

By Olivier Lord

PARIS — As many other countries, France has, over the last few years implemented a policy to fight AIDS. From Nov. 27 to 30, 1989, an international conference, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and devoted to "the implication of AIDS for the mother and child," was held in Paris.

On Nov. 28, 1989, Mr. Claude Evin, the French minister of solidarity and health, gave an assessment of the action taken against AIDS, over the last year, by France. Today, France has some 150,000 seropositive carriers. In 1990, some 8,000 people are expected to develop the disease, compared to 5,000 in 1989.

The minister also announced that the plan adopted in November 1988 would be pursued and intensified. The objectives established at the time are thus still valid: research, prevention

and health education (all French departments now have free and anonymous detection centres), free medical care and the fight against being ostracised.

Three structures set up at the same time are also being maintained. First of all, the National AIDS Council. Then the National Agency for Research on AIDS which, in 1990, has a budget of 180 million francs (compared with 150 the year before), and which has already financed 229 research programmes and 47 grants.

And lastly, the Agency for Fighting AIDS which recently launched several information campaigns for the general public, the army, prisoners and secondary schools, as well as training schemes for doctors, social workers and the police. In 1990, 120 million francs (compared with 100 in 1989) will be allocated for the activities of information and education.

In 1989, 430 million francs

had been devoted to patients who had benefited from 500,000 days of hospitalisation and 250,000 consultations. In 1990, this amount is to rise to 550 million francs. The money will be used to buy equipment, to create several hundred positions for nurses, social assistants and medical secretaries, and to finance the treatment of patients.

France recently authorised a new drug to be used in the treatment of AIDS. This is DDI which is already in use in the United States. DDI is, in certain cases, believed to be more easily tolerated by the human organism than AZT which has, until now, been the main drug prescribed against AIDS.

In order to fight ostracism and to help AIDS patients to be integrated in French society, the government intends to present a bill, in the near future, aimed at sentencing anybody discriminating against a person for reasons of health or owing to a handicap.

Moreover, in 1990, the stress will more than ever be laid on information. Indeed,



Waiting for the discovery of a vaccine, the fight against AIDS in France passes first through prevention and information.

prevention is always the main concern of public authorities as long as a vaccine is still unavailable.

In that area, progress has, however, been made by scientists. Indeed, American researchers at Tulane University (New Orleans) have developed an experimental vaccine against the SIV virus. This virus which causes a

disease close to AIDS in Macaque monkeys is considered as the closest relative to the HIV virus responsible for AIDS. This highly promising result makes it seriously possible to believe that a vaccine against AIDS could be developed within a few years. In the meantime, the only alternative is to develop actions of prevention — L'Actualité en France

New drug reduces bone loss in osteoporosis

By Marjorie Shaffer
Reuter

NEW YORK — An experimental drug has greatly reduced the number of new spinal fractures and reduced bone loss in osteoporosis patients, a preliminary study said.

The three-year study by Danish researchers raised the hope that the drug could reverse or even prevent the widespread and debilitating bone disorder.

The researchers analysed the effect of the drug Etidronate, a non-hormonal drug taken orally that reduces bone loss, and calcium in 66 women with post-menopausal osteoporosis.

The study, published in the current issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, was supported by Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals of Norwich, New York, which makes the drug.

Doctors specialising in the bone disorder said the results were potentially very exciting and could provide a new alternative to treating and perhaps preventing osteoporosis.

"It has considerable appeal because it is orally active and appears to have a very low frequency of side effects," said Dr. William Peck, president of the National Osteoporosis Foundation.

"An orally active, safe and effective agent as suggested by this impressive, preliminary study would be a real advance," said Peck.

Osteoporosis, caused by excessive bone loss, affects 24 million Americans and is responsible for 1.3 million bone fractures annually, including 300,000 hip fractures and 500,000 fractures in the backbone. It afflicts one-third to one-half of all post-menopausal women.

Etidronate has been on the market since 1978 to treat Paget's Disease, a bone cancer. It is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating osteoporosis.

A spokeswoman for Norwich Eaton said the company would soon submit an application to the FDA to market the drug.

In the new study, women were randomly assigned to receive the drug or a placebo for two weeks, followed by a 13-week period in which no drugs were given. The sequence was repeated for a total of 150 weeks. All patients received daily supplements of Vitamin D and calcium.

The study, led by Dr. Tommy Storm of Sundby Hospital, Copenhagen, was double-blinded, meaning neither the patients nor the doctors knew whether the placebo or the drug was being administered.

CBJ reserves \$490m

(Continued from page 1)

were between \$600 million to \$650 million — "a big disappointment" — in 1989, but the CBJ expected the figure to go up to \$750 million to \$800 million — an increase of 25 per cent — in 1990. "The results of the first quarter are very promising, and we expect the same in the second quarter," he said but did not give any figures.

The CBJ has no plans to ask Jordanians to disclose their foreign bank accounts or take any other action on them, he said.

No devaluation

In light of the situation in the reserves and the fact that commercial banks are mostly shouldering the task of meeting foreign exchange requirements for imports and other invisibles through their receipt of expatriate remittances and export payments, "there is a balance" in the monetary situation in the Kingdom, Nabulsi said. The CBJ is stepping in with "very small amounts" of foreign exchange supply to the commercial market, he added.

"We are not losing reserves," he said and voiced confidence that there would not be any need to revise the exchange rate of the dinar for the next two years, particularly that the "present trend in trade balance is also stable." There is an "excluded possibility" that the import/export ratio could shift, but "some factors indicate a better situation."

The CBJ governor was replying to a pointed question on rumours that a further devaluation of the dinar was in the offing. He also explained that a statement he issued earlier this week dismissing such suggestions and cautioning the public against speculation was not "a reaction to what happened in the market in as much as a (response) to silly rumours."

According to the CBJ governor, the shift in the dinar's rate in the "unofficial (black) market" after the rumours surfaced was about one per cent of the official rate while the international view is that any change in the value of a currency was significant if the shift was at least 10 per cent. "Three weeks ago the (unofficial) dollar rate was in fact even slightly less than the official rate," he said.

"Even at the best of times in Jordan, there was a difference of a few fils between the official rate and the rate of the moneychangers," he recalled.

Nabulsi pointed out that the CBJ's daily exchange rate bulletins reflected the bank's policy of moving up and down with fluctuations in the international currency market. The CBJ-set rate of 667/671 fils for the dollar for Wednesday reflected the downward trend of the American currency in the international market in the last two days, he said.

Gold reserves

Nabulsi confirmed that the Central Bank held 750,000 ounces of gold in reserve, part of it hypothecated against a loan of \$60 million last year. "We have already repaid \$20 million of this loan, and may pay another \$20 million in the next two weeks," he said. The loan will be repaid in full and the hypothecation arrangement terminated before the end of the year, he added.

The CBJ had no plans to buy and boost its gold reserves, he said in reply to a question.

Answering another question on the impact of the Central Bank's recent decision to float commercial bank interest rates, Nabulsi said it was only natural "that the high liquidity of the banks will push down interest rates."

Egypt pursues efforts

(Continued from page 1)

together so that we keep a good appearance in front of the world," he added.

Egypt had previously voiced reservations about convening an emergency summit in May, saying further time was needed for adequate preparation.

Mubarak was speaking after talks on summit prospects with Prince Abdullah, who had already visited Damascus, Baghdad and Amman. Saudi Arabia has said it supported calls for the summit provided it was agreed unanimously.

An Syrian newspaper said an Arab summit would create confusion if it were "improvised" without proper agreement on where to hold it and what to discuss. "Because the success of a summit is a basic condition for its

The governor said the CBJ had submitted to the government "four possible scenarios" related to the financially-troubled Petra Bank and the government had not yet taken a decision on the issue. Petra Bank, which the Economic Security Committee (ESC) took over in August last year, "is in a very bad situation," he said. "It has been losing a lot of money and is still losing."

He said the extent of the losses incurred by Petra Bank, as well as the Jordan Gulf Bank which was also taken over by the ESC in August, was not clear yet. "It is a very, very complicated task..." he said. One of the two government-appointed auditors of Petra Bank, Alfred Atherton, has submitted a preliminary report and the other, Saba and Company, is continuing its task, he said. However, "we have reached tentative conclusions... that the shareholders of both institutions have lost one hundred per cent of their investment."

"This is not the full extent of the loss," he said. Investigations by the martial law authorities, under whose powers the two banks were taken over by the ESC, helped by 12 representatives of other banks in Jordan have produced "50 to 60 files which represent about two-thirds of the cases," according to the CBJ governor. However, he said, "these are the technical details (and) the real prosecution" of those involved will take some more time.

Debt rescheduling

The Central Bank chief said Jordan expected to finalise its debt rescheduling agreement with the London Club of creditor banks and financial institutions in another month. Agreement in principle was reached with the London Club last year, and Jordan has already paid all interests in arrears to the club's members. The agreement that remains to be formalised relates to repayment of principal amounts due until mid-1991, representing a total of \$75 million.

"There is no basic disagreement with the London Club," said Nabulsi, who, along with Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh, visited London last month for talks with the club. He rejected a suggestion that the delay in finalising the agreement favoured Jordan in that payments were also delayed. "We have paid all interest in arrears," he said, and the only issue being handled under the agreement was principal, "which we have to repay anyway."

Nabulsi ruled out licensing new banks in Jordan. "There will be no new licences at all," he said. "In fact, our plans call for the elimination of some banks through mergers under mutually agreed terms," he said without elaboration but adding that "we will not be imposing it on anyone."

Nabulsi disclosed that the accounts of 40 of the 70 moneychangers whose businesses were closed down in February last year had already been liquidated, and a new law was being drafted by the legal committee of the Council of Ministers to govern the licensing and operations of moneychangers. It is premature to disclose details of the proposed legislation, which has to pass through the cabinet as well as parliament before being enacted, he said, but "the policy is not to allow a big number of operators and fragmentation of the field."

"It will not be the same number" as last February when the government of Zaid Rifai used martial law powers to order the closure of all moneychanging establishments except those operated by banks, he added.



A little 'preening' before being displayed. But where are the good old fairs?

Saint-Christophe and its cattle

By J.M. Dupuch

Saint-Christophe-en-Brionnais, in Burgundy, just goes on celebrating the 500th anniversary of its being granted the authorization, by the king millennium, in the heart of the township, stretches time so as to be able to still go on celebrating this event.

In 1488, King Charles VIII granted Jean de Tenay, lord of Saint-Christophe, the right to hold three annual fairs in Burgundy, which had recently joined the kingdom of France.

The Brionnais region, a land of gentle slopes and dales, where one's eyes are drawn towards the spreading wooded hills and copses, provides that fine scene that Romanesque churches are built with. A stone's throw away, to the west, flows the Loire. Ten leagues to the east, the grapes of Beaujolais ripen. A hundred kilometres away, Lyons thrives.

Roads and countless lanes snake through the meadows closed by hedgerows. Crops are not grown in this region. Cattle-breeding has always been practised here. Oxen are prepared for the butchers. Not just any oxen, but Charolais, the meat animal with its full, round rump and its white coat. It is the species of the region and the most famous in France.

Saint-Christophe's cattle fair is held every Thursday of the year. In the Revolution, it was changed to "Belle Air aux Foires", a name

containing the reference to fairs. Cattle breeders and dealers set off for the town, where they arrive between midnight and four o'clock in the morning. Not very long ago, they still used to come down from the neighbouring villages on foot, leading their beasts and forming a group which grew bigger from farm to farm. They were soon joined by the women carrying baskets, who were going to sell butter, cheese, eggs and poultry in the market in the main street.

At the fair, they pay a charge of 20 francs per head and tie their cattle up to bars according to the categories: bulls, heifers, young bullocks, grazing calves, etc. A municipal clerk shows they have been paid for by putting a green-blue chalk mark on the animals' backs.

It is still early. The men and the rare women, all wearing black overalls and rubber boots, with a stick in their hands, disperse in the restaurants where, despite the early hour, the traditional boiled beef is served. But this is gradually being left aside in favour of a quickly matched sandwich.

At 3.30 a.m., the transactions begin amid the following. Buyers and meat dealers, in black overalls and rubber boots, with a stick in their hands, go between the bars and size up the goods. The breeder waits behind his beasts, without pushing his merchandise. If his product interests a buyer, they discuss the weight, the quality and the price of course, for the

deal is done on estimation. But this ancestral practice is tending to give way to payment after weighing and slaughtering. The two meat claps in each other's hands to mark their agreement. The buyer puts his mark on the animal by cutting out its hairs with scissors and gives the seller a voucher bearing the number of the delivery pen and the agreed price.

From 8.30, the trucks line up at the delivery bay to pick up their loads. Before the days were built, the animals had to go twelve kilometres to the station in La Clayette, led by a herdsman and helped by children.

Around 9 o'clock, in the payment hall, the buyers sign cheques in exchange for the delivery orders and health certificates. In the past, payment used to be made in the open on the corner wall of the marketplace, which, for that reason, was called the money-wall. The wholesale butchers, standing on one side, would open newspaper-wrapped parcels of banknotes which they would count out to settle their payments to the breeders, standing on the other side of the wall.

The cattle fair in Saint-Christophe has now been modernized and is open to the European market. About 100,000 sales are made there every year. But the locals who are less young, miss the fairs of yesteryear when calves, cows, pigs and broods mingled in a festive atmosphere — (L'Actualite en France)

Fundamentalism vs. West — beyond policies, government

By Rosalind Mandline
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The anti-westernism of Islamic fundamentalism stems in part from different views on the separation of church and state and the feared encroachment of Western values on Islamic societies, according to historical Bernard Lewis.

"Ultimately the struggle of fundamentalists is against two enemies — secularism and modernism," Lewis stated during the 19th annual Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities given in Washington last week.

Lewis is a retired professor of Near Eastern studies in Princeton University and the author of numerous books on Islam and the Middle East. He was introduced at the lecture as the United States' "greatest historian on Islam."

The National Endowment for the Humanities established the Jefferson Lecture in 1972 as the highest official recognition of the United States government bestows for distinguished intellectual achievement in the humanities. Previous recipients have been Lionel Trilling, Erik Erikson, Robert Penn Warren, Saul Bellow and Barbara Tuchman. The NEH is an independent agency established by the U.S. Congress in 1965 to support scholarship, research, education and public programmes in the humanities.

"Islam is one of the world's great religions," Lewis said in his address. He noted that all religions experience turbulent periods and that Islam is facing such an era today. Lewis stressed that this period of violence is not common to all of the Muslim World and that it is not always explicitly directed at the West.

"The Muslim world is far from unanimous in its rejection of the West..." Lewis said. There are significant numbers of Muslims who share cultural, moral social and political beliefs with the West, he pointed out. "There is still an imposing Western presence — cultural economic and diplomatic — in Muslim lands, some of which are Western allies," he added.

However, "there is a Libya, an Iran, and a Lebanon, and a surge of hatred that distresses, alarms and above all baffles Americans," Lewis noted.

This present "mood and move-

ment" is one that "transcends the level of issues and policies and the governments that pursue them," Lewis asserted. It is a movement born out of a "clash of civilisations," which has resulted in a rejection of the West, he said.

The Islamic fundamentalists have given an "aim and form" to the "resentment and anger of the Muslim masses at the forces that have disrupted their societies, subverted their institutions, denied or destroyed traditional values and loyalties, aggravated and emphasised their disparities..." he said.

These masses have blamed the West as the "source of the cataclysmic changes" in their societies, Lewis said. They have attributed the "disruptions to their old way of life to the impact of Western domination, Western influence or Western percept and example," he added.

The United States, as the "recognised and unchallenged" leader of the West, has born the brunt of most of this resentment and anger, Lewis explained. However, fundamentalism is not the only Islamic tradition in play today, Lewis pointed out. "There are others that are more tolerant, more open, which helped to inspire the great achievements of the Islamic past," he said. There is hope that "these other traditions will in time prevail," he added.

Lewis also pointed out that not all Western ideas have been rejected by Islamic fundamentalists.

"Even the Islamic Republic of Iran has a written constitution and an elected assembly... for none of which is there any prescription in Islamic teaching or any precedent in the Islamic past," he said.

Many cultural and social customs from the West have also been retained in Islamic societies, he said. "From constitution to Coca-cola, from tanks and television to T-shirts, the symbols and artifacts, and through them the ideas of the West have retained — even strengthened — their appeal," he said.

What can the West and the Islamic World do to improve the conflicts and misunderstandings that exist? Lewis says it is important that the West not intervene in any political or social changes taking place in Islamic societies.

"Before the issue is decided there will be a hard struggle in which we in the West can do little or nothing," he said. Any attempt to intervene might do harm, "for these are issues which Muslims, and only Muslims must decide among themselves," he stressed.

All sides must "take great care... to avoid the danger of a new era of religious war, arising from the exacerbation of differences and revival of ancient long-forgotten prejudices," Lewis warned.

Lewis suggested that the West should "strive to achieve a better appreciation of other religious and political cultures through the study of their history, their literature and their achievements."

At the same time, the Islamic World should "try to achieve a better understanding" of the West, even "if they do not choose to adopt for themselves our Western perception of the proper relationship between religion and politics."

Born in London, Lewis received his bachelor's and doctorate degrees from the University of London. He served in the Royal Armored Corps and British Intelligence Corps during World War II, and was attached to the British Foreign Office from 1941-45. In 1947 he published "A Handbook of Diplomatic and Political Arabic."

Between 1949 and 1974 he was professor of history of the Near and Middle East at the University of London. In 1974, he immigrated to the United States, where he continued teaching in his specialty at Princeton University until his retirement in 1986.

Lewis has written numerous books, including "The Political Language of Islam" (1988), "The Jews of Islam" (1984), "History — Remembered, Recovered, Invented" (1975), "The Assassins: A Radical Sect in Islam" (1967), "The Middle East and the West" (1964), "The Emergence of Modern Turkey" (1961), and "Arabs in History" (1950).

He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; The American Philosophical Society; The British Academy; The Turkish Historical Society; The Atatürk Academy of History, Language and Culture; the Institut d'Egypte; and other learned societies.

The art of deception from ancient Babylon to modern times

By Peter Millership
Reuters

LONDON — The British Museum is giving forgers and fakers down the centuries a showcase of their own.

Some 600 artefacts, all fakes or imitations, fill two cavernous rooms in a display of what the exhibition's curator calls "an interesting exercise in honesty" by Britain's biggest museum.

Many of the objects at the exhibition, called "fake" the art of deception, "had been prized by collectors as the real thing until more astute observers coined them counterfeit."

A "sixth-century" sarcophagus on display for 60 years at the British Museum was withdrawn in 1935 after someone noticed its female figure wore 19th-century

underwear.

A bottle, bought by a collector in 1930 for a massive \$25,000, was exposed after one critic noted the Madonna's face bore too close a resemblance to a Hollywood screen goddess.

Exhibits range from ancient Babylon to modern times and span painting, sculpture and engraving to furniture, jewellery and religious relics. People have faked battle belts, spurs from the Chastity of Agincourt in 1415 as well as lutes and shrunken heads.

There are forged letters which ruined politicians, retouched photographs removing disgraced figures from the annals and passes which brought wartime prisoners freedom.

Some faked for greed, others did it for loyalty or through religious fervour. Some copied art as

a discipline.

The show also demonstrates the frailty of human credibility.

One section covers bizarre magical and scientific fakes such as mermaids, unicorns, and a fur-covered trout while another shows the most prolific early fakers were connected with the church.

The 20th-century section contains counterfeits of Rolex watches, luggage by Louis Vuitton and shirts by Giorgio Armani.

But the exhibition is basically out to give fakes historic and cultural value.

"Fakes are deeply subversive objects which raise difficult questions about... the reality of aesthetic judgment," said curator Mark Jones. "They aren't exactly popular."

Jones found a conspiracy of

silence can exist in the world of fakery between buyer and seller, one to escape the penalties and the other to keep his reputation.

"It's a total disaster to spend public money on something that isn't what it should be," said Jones, who also called the exhibition an excuse to get things out of the basement.

He says many fake paintings, such as Dutchman Han van Meegeren's Vermeer forgeries, lose all value when they are unmasked — transformed instantly from masterpieces into worthless daubs.

Successful imitations by Michelangelo were said to rival the work of ancient artists but British artist Tom Keating's imitations of Samuel Palmer brought him a visit from the fraud squad.

On show is an exact copy of an

original drawing by David Hockney which came up for sale in 1980. During the debate about its authenticity Hockney wrote across it, "This is not my work."

Jones says fakes are normally produced and marketed in a climate of anxiety but provide an excellent guide to what each generation regarded as the hallmarks of authenticity.

The thrill of making a new discovery can often force a scholar to abandon the usual checklist of rules, Jones said.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who created the fictional sleuth Sherlock Holmes, was convinced a set of photographs of fakes were genuine. They later turned out to be cut-outs kept in position for the shot with hat-pins.

The exhibits are a salutary lesson in the fallibility of scholarship

and the limits to knowledge.

"There are areas in which we are not sufficiently well-informed to come to a decision," Jones said.

The heyday of faking came in the 19th and early 20th century. There was a vast expansion in the market for antiques and works of art bringing a glut of exceptional craftsmanship ranging from Byzantine enamels to Gothic ivories and Rembrandts.

Since history began people have been rewriting it to their advantage.

"Pious fraud," was used by temple priests to establish the antiquity of the privileges and revenues of their temple. A stone from Iraq created in the off-Babylonian period purports to come from the earlier reign of the king of Akkad.

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Jordan Times

Third World gets an IMF boost but little else

By Stephen Jukes
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Poor nations have won a \$60 billion increase in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) funding to help meet the growing credit demands of the 1990s but failed to convince the industrial world of the need for a major new initiative to tackle the debt crisis.

Latin American and African nations, alarmed at the prospect of Western money being diverted to potentially lucrative new markets in East Europe, did succeed in bringing the \$1.3 trillion debt crisis back into the spotlight during IMF meeting here.

But monetary officials said any changes in the West's strict guidelines of extending debt relief would be limited and

would probably have to wait at least until July's summit of leaders from the major industrial powers in Houston, Texas.

"Despite repeated discussions of the debt problem... the economic prospects of the severely indebted countries are still bleak," said Bernard Chidzero, Zimbabwean finance minister who chaired Tuesday's talks here.

But he said industrial countries had pledged not to allow their attention to focus on Eastern Europe at the expense of the developing world.

"This is a major challenge to the international community," Chidzero said. "The danger is there that the south will be forgotten."

Agreement on a 50 per cent increase in the fund's resources or "subscription quotas," sealed early Tuesday after two

years of difficult stop-start negotiations, should equip the leading agency for the first part of the 1990s.

"I am certain that over the next three years, with this amount of resources, we will be well equipped to discharge our responsibilities, including those in Eastern Europe," IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told journalists.

Quota increase

The focus will now shift to ratifying the quota increase, by no means an easy task for the U.S. treasury — which has to sell to congress its \$11.1 billion share of the total — or for debtor nations unhappy at the clause which could lead to their suspension from the fund for

non-payment of loans.

The Group of Seven (G-7) industrial democracies — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — will have a sign of relief that negotiations which had generated a host of national rivalries are at last at an end.

The United States will continue to occupy first rank in the fund with a veto right over all major decisions by virtue of its more than 19 per cent share of quotas.

More active Japanese role

But the 1990s is likely to see Japan play a more active role in fund affairs after a reshuffle took it up from fifth spot to equal second with West Germany.

Britain and France took the opportunity to smooth out a long-running dispute in a trade-off which ranks them equal fourth and effectively carves up roles at a new development bank to promote economic reform in Eastern Europe.

The G-7 drove a hard bargain over quotas with the Third World which had started out demanding a doubling but soon became resigned to having to accept 50 per cent.

That figure is in fact higher than the United States and Britain had originally wanted and has been matched only twice in eight previous quota reviews since 1950.

The seven also steered a hard line on debt, all too aware that relaxation of guidelines for their two main plans under

which official and bank loans can be written off, the 1988 "Toronto terms" and 1989 "Brady plan", could set precedents.

World Bank President Barber Conable made a strong case for more flexible rules Tuesday.

But monetary officials said nations needs would be assessed case-by-case, with special attention to nations such as Poland and the Ivory Coast that are covered by neither the Toronto terms nor the Brady plan.

But industrial countries pulled of a bargaining coup late Monday by insisting that if the Third World banks at what has been dubbed the "deterrent clause", then the \$60 billion quota rise would not come into effect.

Britons sink into debt

LONDON (R) — The British are sinking ever more into debt to fund increasingly affluent lifestyles, a consumer watchdog said Wednesday.

The National Consumer Council said there had been a change of attitude in Britain to debt, whether on credit cards, secured loans, overdrafts or mortgages, and called for a crackdown on lending.

"Credit is no longer viewed exclusively as an emergency measure, to be used for the necessities of life," the council said in a report.

Its survey showed that Britons owe on average twice as much per head as they did a decade ago despite an eight per cent rise in disposable income.

Margaret Thatcher's conservative government prides itself on raising living standards and introducing more home ownership.

But to curb rising inflation, now at a year-on-year rate of 8.1 per cent, it has doubled interest rates since June 1988 pinching those who borrowed to buy property and fund spending.

"Debt problems have got worse in the last decade and could get worse still, with more and more people taking out second mortgages to pay for things like cars and holidays, and with house values falling," the report said.

"And some people," says the report, "are being lent money that they have little or no hope of repaying."

The 11-year-old Thatcher government has also embarked on a huge privatisation scheme encouraging millions of people to buy shares in the past had not held them.

"As a nation we have thrown away the piggy bank on the mortgage and now rely on future income to buy what we want today," the report said.

Credit use is highest among richer people aged between 35 and 45 while poorer people with children are most at risk of running up debts they cannot pay.

Unemployment and marriage breakdown are still major reasons for debt problems with long-term unemployed people increasingly relying on credit.

"The elderly are the least like to use credit or to approve of it," the report says. Personal borrowing, without mortgages and fuel bills, stands at £43 billion (\$72 billion) up from 11 billion (\$18 billion) a decade ago.

Higher taxes may loom as Bush seeks bipartisan deal

By Michael Gelb
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Faced with a growing budget deficit that threatens U.S. prosperity, President George Bush is aiming to limit the political damage for a possible tax increase by getting Democrats to share responsibility.

"We want to keep this as free from political bickering as possible," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Tuesday when asked about the potential fallout from Bush's seeming abandonment of the "read my lips — no new taxes" refrain that marked his 1988 presidential campaign.

Fitzwater, noting the congressional election in November makes 1990 a tough year for bipartisanship, said Bush wanted an early budget agreement "and hopefully it would be one that both parties could use to their advantage in the elections."

Congressional leaders of both parties were to discuss the budget with Bush Wednesday,

the second such session this week.

Bombarded with forecasts that rising interest rates and weakness in the economy had caused an explosion in federal red ink, Bush agreed Sunday that he would enter budget talks in which all items including higher taxes would be on the table.

The latest deficit estimates project a shortfall ranging from \$120 billion to \$180 billion for the 1991 fiscal year beginning October 1.

Those forecasts mean that reaching the legal deficit limit of \$36 billion could require spending cuts and revenue increases of as much as some \$120 billion, more than triple the \$36 billion budget-cutting package anticipated in the spending plan submitted by Bush in February.

Explaining Bush's change of heart, Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson said: "The president is fully aware that he's got a country to run, and he's got to do that in a responsible way because lots of figures have

changed."

Simpson, the Senate's second ranking Republican, also tested a possible campaign argument — telling reporters that Bush had no intention of raising taxes, just "revenues."

Bush's new approach perturbed some Republican strategists including Edward Rollins, director of the party's congressional campaign committee, who said the Republican's best political argument was that they oppose higher taxes.

But Democratic Senate leader George Mitchell said Tuesday it was not clear that Bush would suffer politically.

"President Bush may be moving in the same direction that President (Ronald) Reagan did. President Reagan was very skillful politically, and the best evidence of that was that in his eight years in office, he proposed, supported, signed into law, 13 tax increases, and in the process, convinced everyone in America that he was against all of them," Mitchell said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, May 9, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	120.2	120.9
U.S. dollar	667.0	671.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	424.6	427.1
Pound Sterling	1114.9	1121.6	Dutch guilder	339.1	361.3
Deutschemark	403.9	406.3	Swedish crown	110.5	111.2
Swiss franc	469.1	471.9	Italian lira (for 100)	35.0	35.3
			Belgian franc (for 100)	194.8	196.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6790/6800	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1645/55	Canadian dollar	
	1.6420/25	Deutschemarks	
	1.8455/65	Dutch guilders	
	1.4075/85	Swiss francs	
	33.90/95	Belgian francs	
	5.5225/75	French francs	
	1205/1206	Italian lire	
	156.52/62	Japanese yen	
	6.0040/90	Swedish crowns	
	6.3985/4035	Norwegian crowns	
	6.2590/80	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	369.50/370.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Share prices closed slightly lower on investor profit-taking after the gains of the past two days. The Nikkei Index eased 24.97 points, or 0.08 per cent, to 30,945.61.

SYDNEY — Shares closed slightly firmer after drifting for most of the day in lethargic trading. The All Ordinaries Index closed 0.9 point up at 1,477.8.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stocks were off their lows as institutions kept a cautious stance, leaving the market open to individual players. The Hang Seng ended down 11.31 at 2,942.27.

SINGAPORE — Market closed for holiday.

FRANKFURT — German shares ended a dull session mostly weaker, reversing a firmer pre-bourse trend, as early buying interest petered out. The Dax index slipped 2.73 points to end at 1,896.55.

ZURICH — Shares closed higher in active trade despite profit-taking at the end of the session. The All-Share SPI index closed 11.4 points higher at 1,088.

PARIS — French shares fell ahead of a parliamentary vote that could topple the Socialist government. The CAC-40 index fell 16.14 points to close at 2,103.69.

LONDON — Shares fell sharply as the market gains since last week's better-than-expected results for the Conservative Party in local authority elections slowly faded away. The FTSE closed down 19.3 points at 2,162.7.

NEW YORK — The market fell on profit-taking with selling centred in the blue chips. The Dow was off six points at 2,727 at 1600 GMT.

Founder of Habitat empire goes back to drawing board

By Anne Senior
Reuters

LONDON — Three decades ago Terence Conran, whose Habitat stores furnished millions of homes worldwide, started out in business chasing a goal of bringing simple style and affordable elegance to the people.

This week the 58-year-old tycoon and trend-setter announced he was leaving big business and returning to basics.

He resigned his chairmanship of the Storehouse PLC retail chain, which groups Habitat, Mothercare and British home stores shops, and said he would run a design store in a striking art deco building that was once the main London outlet of France's Micheline Tyre Company in fashionable south Kensington.

Conran, awarded a knighthood in 1983 when his shops were prospering and his design flair a British success story, bought the tile-facaded building from storehouse together with rights to the Conran name for £3.62 million (\$5.94 million).

A former art student who began his commercial career by

selling gourmet soup, Conran once said his ambition was for the whole world to have a well-designed salad bowl.

He came close to achieving the dream through his Habitat chain, which grew out of a single shop across the road from the old Michelin buildings and offered trendy household designs to Londoners of the "swinging sixties."

But in business Conran strayed from the minimalist style of his designs, building a diverse fashion and furniture empire eventually hit by Britain's retail slump of the late 1980s.

His exit from the group follows a series of management changes and a restructuring programme at storehouse.

The group has had to shut a number of Habitat outlets and fashion stores in Britain, where soaring interest rates and a slump in the housing market have dented consumer spending.

Storehouse is also selling its design business, established by Conran in 1956, to French communications group Roux Segula Cayaz and Goddard.

Conran, a "bon-vivant" who drew inspiration for his houseware designs from French coun-

try kitchens and continental markets, ran a chain of bistros in London's chic Chelsea quarter before turning to furniture design.

His early products, sold by shop assistants in Mary Quant-designed mini-skirts, were snapped up by people tired of the drab colours and designs of post-war Britain.

Habitat, founded in 1964, brought Conran's design ethos to consumers worldwide using huge stores stocking everything from dressers to salt shakers.

There now are more than 100 branches in the United States, trading under the name Conran's Habitat.

Habitat label products are sold in many more countries under franchise agreements, and have found a particular following among the Tokyo trendy.

In an interview earlier this year Conran expressed confidence the "style revolution" will continue whatever the economic climate.

"The public are not going to want to go back to the situation 10 years ago," he said. "They've got the taste for much better design and much better quality."

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabia to have regular stock exchange

RIYADH (AP) — A high-ranking Saudi Arabian finance official was quoted Wednesday as saying the kingdom will have its first regular stock exchange later this month. Ahmad Al Malik, deputy governor of the Saudi Monetary Agency (SAMA), which acts as a central bank, told the newspaper Okaz that the bourse will be opened May 24. Okaz said Malik made the statement after a meeting of SAMA branch managers in the city of Tobuk, north of the capital Riyadh. The kingdom so far allows dealings in shares and stocks through special financial houses. Malik said the future of these houses has not yet been determined, but that they would be allowed to continue operations if deemed necessary. He gave no other details on the governing statutes for the stock market or the rules and regulations for dealings.

New supersonic plane under study

PARIS (AP) — British Aerospace and Aerospatiale of France said Wednesday they would conduct a five-year study to decide whether to develop a new supersonic airliner to replace their jointly produced Concorde. The final decision on whether to proceed with a \$10-billion production programme would be made in 1995, Aerospatiale President Henri Martre told a news conference. He said the feasibility study would cost about \$34 million and would focus on such issues as market potential, technical factors and environmental protection. Martre said the British and French companies would welcome cooperation with other industrial powers, including the United States, the Soviet Union, West Germany and Japan.

Australia concerned over Soviet debts

CANBERRA (R) — Australia has expressed concern to the Soviet Union over the 198.7 million dollars (150 million U.S. dollars) owed for Australian wool, Minister for Trade Negotiations Neil Blewett told parliament Wednesday. Blewett said about half the sum was due immediately but added: "I stress we are talking about delays in payments, not defaults." He said Australia had been making regular representations at very senior levels and its diplomats were emphasising Australia's concern to Soviet authorities. The Australian Council of Wool Exporters said this week the Soviet Union had asked for extended credit on wool purchases worth more than 100 million dollars (75 million U.S. dollars).

Volkswagen reports 1.04b marks

WOLFSBURG, West Germany (R) — Volkswagen AG (VW), Europe's largest car maker, said Wednesday that its 1989 group net profit surged 33 per cent to 1.04 billion marks (\$620 million) in its most successful year ever. The strong rise in earnings was due to higher sales, the effect of a two-year cost-cutting programme and higher productivity, VW said in its annual report. VW earnings continued to rise in the first quarter of this year as group net profit rose 10 million marks (\$6 million). VW Finance Director Dieter Ullsperger told reporters. But 1990's outlook is clouded by a drop in earnings from VW's Brazilian subsidiary, which has been hit by a government belt-tightening programme. But good business in Europe made up for this in the first quarter of this year.

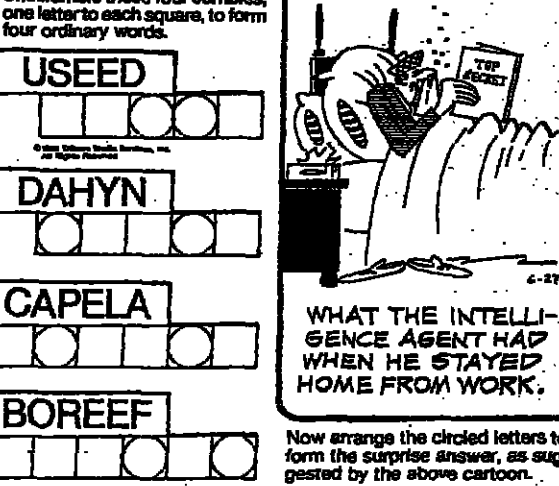
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

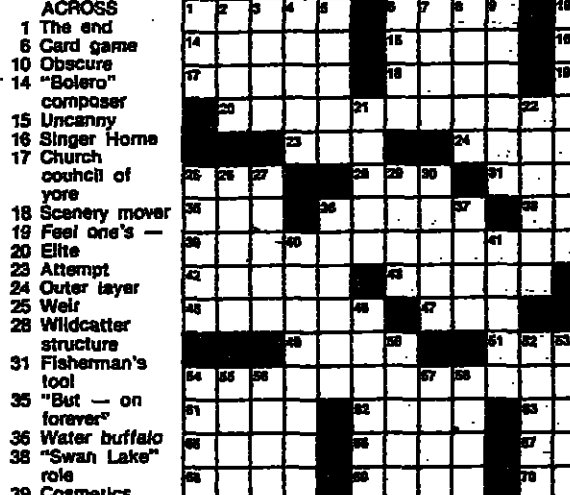
Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: A "COMET" IN THE "YOMAN TAUGHT".
Yesterday's Jumble: COMET WEIGH YOMAN TAUGHT.
Answer: Why the cook hurried to the herb garden — HE HADN'T MUCH "TIME" (time).

THE Daily Crossword

by C.F. Murray



ACROSS
1 The end
6 Card game
10 Obscure
14 "Solitaire" composer
15 Uncanny
16 Singer Home
17 Church
18 Scenery mover
19 Peel one's —
20 Elite
23 Attempt
24 Outer layer
25 Well
28 Wildcat
31 Fisherman's tool
35 "But — on —
36 Water buffalo
38 "Swan Lake" role
39 Cosmetics
42 Portraits
43 Peculiarity
44 Once called
45 Powder
47 Letter holder
48 Finesse
49 Iowa State's
51 Charged
54 Very best
55 Fair feature
62 Fatful date
63 Like sheep
65 Food
66 Thickener
68 The seven —
69 Food, shelter
etc.
70 "To be, — to be"

DOWN
1 Table scrap
2 Artist Chagall
3 Always
4 Fr. dramatist
5 Wedding site
6 Utah's lily
7 Saw cut
8 Sch. subj.
9 Infectious disease
10 War play
11 Bard's king
12 Golden rule
13 Grate
21 Incense
22 Ingredient
23 Date
25 Piece of turf
26 Brilliant lizard
27 Kind of alloy
29 "What's — for me?"
30 Kind
32 Tropical vine
33 Rice or Fudd
34 Adjust
36 Pretend
37 Richard or Eddie
40 Privately
41 Of citizenship
48 Middle value
50 Marsh plant
52 Maine U.
53 At no time
54 Stuff
55 Cheese type
57 Drugs
58 Helper, abbr.
59 Assistance
60 Within: pref.
64 Superlative
65 And

HOROSCOPE

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 10, 1990

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Good day to get together with those of whom you are most fond and thoroughly enjoy each other in harmonious accord. Show your close companionship the extent of your devotion.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You open day by having to solve a communication from afar or one of different views to your own and later harmonizing home and outside activities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) During the day you would be wise to use care in whatever material or financial matters arise where dealing with business persons is concerned.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Much restraint in responding to the play of outsiders in trying to annoy and stir you up can ward off potentially nonproductive arguments.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are upset early about some duties connected with usual activities and later you feel this bad luck extends to public interests but the evening works out.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think over the pleasures that appeal to you and keep in mind negative factors or they can be disappointing but tonight, much affection is possible with attachment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your daytime suggests that you stick to obligations of a public nature; don't let a family matter get in the way; tonight go out to console with a hobby.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study new schools of thought and don't let an outmoded one take up your time after which tonight you will be able to have a happy evening with your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get whatever property you are responsible for in the best of condition today even though it appears difficult while tonight brings worthwhile communications.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't let yourself be depressed about speed day with more who is witty and full of fun; then tonight you can get into money matters, solve them well.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you have in mind about some drastic change in your work should be put off until a more propitious moment; tonight be with a home loving comrade.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look into entertainment that are less costly and include more companionship with your close attachment; tonight be especially devoted to your mate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your attention is best preoccupied now with whatever of a vocational or a credit matter can be handled by you; tonight be with long time friends socially.

FORECAST FOR Friday May 11, 1990

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You alternatively schedule today and this evening in being very determined to get your own ideas across at one moment and being cooperative with others and their ideas at another.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) During the day be with the one you love the most quietly and you can have an unusually happy time but tonight avoid friends who have a big ego.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be just as gregarious as you like during the day for all kinds of good times and benefits can follow while tonight avoid a secret society.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can do what will add charm and beauty to your surroundings day then tonight it's necessary that you don't commit yourself to a limiting condition.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You create magnetism during the daytime and would be wise to see and be with those you want to be around more; tonight avoid public fling.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have a warm feeling within that should take expression by asking one less fortunate than yourself; tonight stay away from newsmen that know it all.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) An emotional friend who sees you in your best light will go along with a plan that is important to you; tonight this is not right to take up practical interests.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider well how to improve your image by expressing more charm in public and carry this through today while tonight avoid a business outsider.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A newcomer in your life has all the things you like best in an individual so make sure you encourage a friendship; tonight a friend will cause you problems.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for the real depth of affection you attachment wants to extend to you and give much love in return; tonight sidestep an expensive entertainment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have the urge within to do for other persons special favours which is in line with the planetary configurations; tonight avoid getting hurt feelings.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have some intimate urges to be sure to cater to them while in the evening don't let restlessness possess you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever a staunch and loyal friend wants to do for you today is in your best interests so get along with this; tonight avoid social pressures.



Arab Basketball Championship

Arab women basketball teams played Wednesday in Amman to begin a place in the Arab Basketball Championship: Algeria (Boucin Day) defeated Iraq (Al Shurti) — 72-58, and Tunisia (Al Ma'ab) beat Jordan (Al Ahli) — 88-45. In the men's competition Egypt (Al Ahli) overcame Jordan (Al Orthodox) — 81-79, Syria (Al Tihad) won over Saudi Arabia (Uhud) — 87-73, and in the all-Algerian game Al Tahigh just beat Al Kahruha — 82-80. The photo (above) shows Al Khadifa baskets a ball as Al Irtihad defender Elsham Sharifa, tries to save the ball. (Below) an Al Rashid shooter scores a point as Hiba Barakat of Al Orthodox Club (No. 15) looks in surprise during a Tuesday match which Al Rashid won 95-77.



Royals gets third straight win

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Gerald Perry's first career grand slam hastened Nolan Ryan's earliest exit in five years and the Kansas City Royals beat the Texas Rangers for their third consecutive victory.

Ryan (4-2), pitching with six days' rest, got just two outs and gave up six runs. He lasted less than one inning.

Ryan, who had matched the fastest start of his career with four straight victories, lost his second consecutive decision. In his last outing, he gave up five runs in the first inning against the Chicago White Sox.

Ryan has surrendered eight slams, one shy of the major league record held by Ned Garver and Jerry Reuss.

Mark Gubicza (2-4) stopped his four-game losing streak. He entered the game with an 8.18 earned run average, but allowed only two hits through six innings.

In Oakland, California, Scott Sanderson and Gene Nelson combined on a six-hitter and Mark McGwire drove in two runs as the Oakland Athletics beat the New York Yankees for their eighth win in nine games.

Sanderson (4-1) has won both his starts against New York this season and has not allowed a run in 13 1-3 innings. Nelson was perfect over the final 2 2-3 innings for his second save.

Oakland has now won seven in a row and 14 of 17 over New York and A's pitchers have allowed three earned runs in the five games between the teams this season. Greg Cadaret (0-2) took the loss.

In Toronto, Ron Kittle hit two home runs and reliever Bobby

Thigpen escaped a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the eighth inning as the Chicago White Sox beat Toronto and stopped the Blue Jays' three-game winning streak.

John Cerutti (1-5) retired the first two Chicago batters on two pitches before Ivan Calderon walked and Kittle homered. Kittle connected in the fourth for a solo shot, his fourth of the season.

Greg Hibbard (3-2) beat the Blue Jays for the second time this season. Thigpen took over in the eighth and got his seventh save of the season and 98th for the White Sox, tying Hoyt Wilhelm's team record.

In Minneapolis, Gary Gaetti singled home the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning as the Minnesota Twins overcame an early five-run deficit and beat the Cleveland Indians for their sixth straight victory.

Juan Berenguer (2-0) held Cleveland hitless for 3 2-3 innings. Rick Aguilera pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save. The Indians got five hits, but only one after the first inning, a single in the fifth by Keith Hernandez off starter David West.

Gene Larkin drew a leadoff walk from Steve Olin (0-2) in the seventh and moved to second on Kent Hrbek's one-out grounder. Gaetti followed with a single to left field.

In Milwaukee, Rob Deer and Paul Molitor homered and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Detroit Tigers, offsetting Cecil Fielder's fifth home run in three days.

Matt Nokes and Tony Phillips also homered for the Tigers, but they still lost for the ninth time in 10 games. Reliever Paul Mirabella (1-0) pitched 3 2-3

scoreless innings for his first victory since Sept. 3, 1988.

Fielder leads the major leagues with 12 home runs and 28 RBIs. He hit three homers Sunday in Toronto and has connected two straight days in Milwaukee.

Frank Tanana (2-2) was the loser. Dan Plesac got his sixth save.

In Houston, Rafael Ramirez doubled home the winning run in the 10th inning Tuesday night as the Houston Astros beat the Philadelphia Phillies 3-2.

Eric Yelding singled to right, stole second and scored when Ramirez hit a ball over the head of left fielder Randy Ready. The hit came off Dickie Noles (0-1).

Dave Smith (1-2) pitched the 10th inning for the victory.

In Anaheim, California, Chuck Finley pitched a three-hitter for California's first complete game of the season and the Angels ended a five-game losing streak, beating the Baltimore Orioles.

Chili Davis, Wally Joyner and Brian Downing all homered for the Angels. Each connected against Jeff Ballard (0-5), who led American League left-handers with 18 victories last season.

Finley (4-2) struck out six and walked three. He has not allowed earned run at home this season in three starts, covering 21 1-3 innings.

In Seattle, Harold Reynolds doubled home the winning run with one out in the ninth inning and the Seattle Mariners beat the Boston Red Sox.

Mike Brunley, who singled home the tying run in the seventh, drew a one-out walk from Wes Gardner (0-1). Reynolds followed with a hard grounder that bounced over first base, rolled into the bullpen and

caromed away from right fielder Tom Brunansky.

Brunansky retrieved the ball in shallow right-center field and his throw was up the first-base line, allowing Brunley to slide home safely. Bill Swift (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the victory.

In Chicago, Andre Dawson, whose solo homer in the ninth tied the game, hit a two-run shot in the 11th inning to win it as the Chicago Cubs outslugged the Atlanta Braves 10-8 Tuesday.

Mark Grace singled with one out in the 11th off Dwayne Henry (0-1) and Dawson followed with a drive over the center-field fence as the Cubs rebounded after blowing a 5-0 lead.

Australia, England advance to Hockey World Cup

SYDNEY (R) — Olympic champions Australia and fourth seeds England drew 0-0 Wednesday to scramble into the semifinals of the women's Hockey World Cup and squeeze West Germany out of the last four.

West Germany's 3-1 defeat of Argentina earlier in the day gave the 1981 champions a great chance of qualifying for the last four.

But they were thwarted by the scoreless draw in a tense pool A game after Australia had missed a first half penalty stroke.

"I think we played extremely well but we are very disappointed that we did not capitalise on the chances we made," Australian coach Brian Glencross said.

"I now believe we are in with a shout of the medals," England coach Sue Siocombe said. "We wanted to win the game if possible and the girls were very aggressive and determined."

England play defending champions the Netherlands, top side in pool B, in Friday's semifinals. Neither side has conceded a goal in their five preliminary games.

Australia will stage a replay of the Seoul Olympic final against second seeds South Korea, the highest scorers in the tournament with 17 goals.

The Dutch women continued their impressive form by disposing of Canada 2-0 in the final pool B game. Lianne Lejeune scored both goals to become the tournament's highest scorer with six.

The Dutch, who had already qualified, did not overexert themselves but their second goal was memorable. Lejeune noticed Canadian goalkeeper Deb Whitten off the line and lobbed the ball over her into the net.

England, with more to lose than Australia, were content to defend, relying on close marking to keep the home side out.

England's determination was personified by left half Kathryn Edwards, who played against doctor's orders after having nine stitches inserted over her left eye following a clash in the previous game against West Germany.

Old, new pair up at Italian Open

ROME (AP) — While 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati aims for her first tournament victory at the Italian Open, 33-year-old Martina Navratilova is trying to close in on no. 157 — her friend Chris Evert's career record.

Navratilova, who worked on her serve Tuesday afternoon under the watchful eye of former great Billie Jean King, meets unseeded Australian Rachel McQuillan Thursday. A win at Rome would lift her career total to 151.

With nearly 20 years between them, the 12th-seeded seed Capriati and top-seeded Navratilova are the youngest and oldest players in the Rome tournament. The two could possibly meet in the semifinals.

Although potential adversaries in singles competition, Navratilova and Capriati made their debut as doubles partners Wednesday against Australians Tracey Morton and Kate McDonald.

The American pair won the first set 6-2, then dropped the second 7-5. The Australians strode to a 4-0 lead in the final set. But supported by an enthusiastic crowd which flocked to see the pair, Navratilova and Capriati worked their way back into the set to win 6-4 and take the match.

Also Wednesday, two-time defending champion and no. 4 seed Gabriela Sabatini survived her opponent's moon-ball offense to beat unseeded Ann Grossman of the United States 7-6, 6-0, in a second-round match.

And in a night match on a virtually deserted centre court, with most spectators watching Navratilova and Capriati, second-seeded Monica Seles joined Sabatini in the third round by defeating Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 6-1.

Two seeds were ousted. Seventh-seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France was eliminated by Italy's Laura Golarsa, 6-3, 7-6, and no. 9 Laura Gildemeister of Peru lost 6-4, 7-6, to Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia.

The fourth-seeded Sabatini looks poised to win a third straight title.

"I'm playing very good tennis and I think I can win the tournament again," the Argentinean said. "It's just a matter of getting

my confidence back." Navratilova, an expert doubles player, gave her young colleague a few pointers about net play, and the two exchanged high-fives after many winners.

Navratilova's four tournament victories so far this year include a 6-2, 6-4 final-round win over Capriati on clay at the Family Circle Magazine Cup in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

This is Navratilova's fifth appearance in the Rome tournament, a competition she has never won. She last played at the Foro Italico in 1987, losing to Sabatini in the semifinals.

In Kiawah Island, South Carolina, only four of the eight seeded players remain in contention after the first round of the U.S. men's clay court championships. But the players aren't particularly surprised.

"In this tournament, the clay is a little bit of an equalizer because there are so few tournaments in this country on clay," said Brad Pearce, who ousted no. 2 seed Jim Grabb Wednesday.

"I don't pay much attention to who is seeded. I forget I'm first. It's weird," added Richey Reneberg. "I'll have to turn things around by my next match or I won't be here very long."

Two seeds begin second-round play Thursday on the green clay at the East Beach tennis club on Kiawah Island, about 20 miles (30 kilometres) southwest of Charleston, South Carolina.

Malivi Washington, the no. 8 seed, meets Leonardo Lavalle, while no. 3 David Wheaton plays Craig Campbell.

Topsy—turvey form clouds French Open

MONTE CARLO (R) — The absence of world number one Ivan Lendl and the topsy-turvy form of the world's leading tennis players suggest that, for once, there will be no clear favourite when the French Open starts in four weeks' time.

Andrei Chesnokov, a semifinalist at Roland Garros last year, walked off with the biggest prize of his career with victory last month in the \$1 million Monte Carlo Open, adding his name to a growing list of those capable of winning in Paris.

But earlier, the Soviet player had made a surprise second round exit to 17-year-old Frenchman Fabrice Santoro when he was defending his title in the Nice Open, showing he is by no means immune to the fluctuations of form afflicting almost everyone since the European clay court season opened.

"It's too soon to say how well I can do at the French Open," he said cautiously. "There you have to take one round at a time. There are many, many players who can do well."

Chesnokov is right — there will be no shortlists for the French men's singles title. All lists of contenders must inevitably be long.

For that, one can only thank or blame Lendl and Mats Wilander who have taken six of the last eight trophies at Roland Garros between them and who start as automatic favourites each year for the only grand slam title contested on clay.

Lendl is ducking Paris this year to concentrate on Wimbledon, the one major title which has eluded him, and the Swede is so manifestly out of form, practice and inspiration only a giraffe would stick its neck out on his behalf.

World numbers two and three Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker are poised to fill the vacuum — and make the jump to pass Lendl and become world number one.

But the Monte Carlo tournament showed once again that these two giants of the attacking game have their limitations on clay and will always be vulnerable to a dogged baseliner.

Edberg went out in his first match to Juan Aguilera and Becker fell at the next hurdle, another victim to a Spanish clay court specialist, this time Emilio Sanchez.

That neither Aguilera nor Sanchez was able to go on to the final

illustrates how variable form is proving to be this season.

Whether Edberg of Becker, any more than John McEnroe before them, can ever win at Roland Garros remains debatable. They were close last year when the Swede beat Becker in a five-set semifinal, only to lose a close final with American teenager Michael Chang.

Both would dearly love to win in Paris, not because they alike clay but because it would give them enormous stature as great all-round players.

Since tennis went open more than 20 years ago, only Bjorn Borg has won on the totally contrasting surfaces of clay and grass at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. But he was a one-off genius who picked up a record six titles in the French and five in a row in London.

Becker, like Edberg brought up on clay but with a game far better suited to faster surfaces, has long needed to clear just how much he needs to win in Paris.

But his distaste for the patience and defensive instincts required is obvious. Asked if he approved of Lendl missing the French Open, he said: "If I won the French three times, I would never play on clay again." His expression showed he meant it.

If they cannot do it, then who can? Will Chang, the first American to win in Paris in 34 years, the youngest grand slam men's singles winner ever and the biggest upset of recent years, be able to do it again?

Or will his breakthrough encourage another young American to follow? Andre Agassi, Aaron Krickstein, Jim Courier and Pete Sampras are already waiting in the wings.

The struggle for supremacy may well be between them and the Spanish-speaking clay experts — Sanchez, Aguilera or Argentinians Alberto Mancini and Guillermo Perez-Roldan.

Two players returning to form after serious injury — Austria's Thomas Muster, losing finalist in Monte Carlo, and Henri Leconte of France, a semifinalist — may also have a word in the destination of the title, as may Chesnokov.

The forthcoming West German Open in Hamburg and Italian Open in Rome may throw up a few more pointers or they may just cloud the water a little more by adding more names to the lengthening list.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TANNIA HIRSCH
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COMBINE YOUR CHANCES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J3
♥ 852
♦ 72
♣ A J 8 5 3

EAST
♠ Q 9 7
♥ K J 7 6
♦ K 10 8 6
♣ Q 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A K 4
♥ A 10 3
♦ A Q J 5 3
♣ K 10

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

No one is foolish enough to disagree with the premise that two chances are better than one. But that extra opportunity can sometimes prove elusive. How would you play three no trump after a spade lead?

The auction is routine. Note that even with a six-card suit North preferred properly to play for the nine-trick contract rather than the minor-suit game.

Against three no trump West led a fourth-best spade. Declarer made the right technical play of the jack, covered by the queen and taken by the king. (Had declarer played low from dummy, East's correct play would have been the nine.) At the table we watched matters were decided quickly. Declarer cashed the king of clubs and then finessed, losing to the queen, and ended up with only six tricks.

Declarer could have combined his chances in the minor suits. Suppose that, at trick two, South had led the ten of clubs to the table's jack. East cannot win, because that gives declarer the whole club suit. Now South can use that extra entry to dummy to take the diamond finesse. When that succeeds declarer continues by overruling the king of clubs with the ace. If the queen falls declarer is going for overtricks. When the lady does not appear declarer repeats the diamond finesse and then cashes the ace. Although the king does not drop declarer concedes a diamond and has nine tricks in the bank—two spades, a heart, four diamonds and two clubs!

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Yazov warns of threats, pledges reform during Moscow parade

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov said Wednesday the country still faced military danger but pledged to pursue military reform as Moscow commemorated the defeat of Nazi Germany with a big parade.

Yazov, standing next to President Mikhail Gorbachev atop the Lenin Mausoleum in Red Square, was speaking one day after the Soviet leader criticised the armed forces and called for a reexamination of their role.

"Under the influence of deep transformation in the Soviet Union, there have been considerable positive changes in international affairs. Dialogue is taking the place of confrontation," Yazov said.

"But at the same time, the military threat remains. In these conditions the Soviet Union maintains its military preparedness at the necessary and sufficient level and is carrying out a radical transformation of its defence capacity, all of which constitutes military reform."

The profound changes brought about by Gorbachev's perestroika policies were not yet irreversible, he said.

Gorbachev, in a speech at ceremonies on the eve on Wednesday's anniversary, said the country's leadership was "far from being satisfied with the current

situation in the army. And of course it also cannot be beyond the pale of criticism."

"Our perestroika forces us to have a new look at the army," he said.

Yazov said the defeat of the Nazis 45 years ago was the "achievement of our homeland, our people" and stressed the role played in the victory by the Communist Party, saying three million of its members died in the war.

Revised figures disclosed last week put total Soviet losses at about 27 million.

At a time when Eastern European countries are negotiating the departure of hundreds of thousands of Soviet troops stationed there since the war, he said the Soviet people had liberated the peoples of Europe from the fascist yoke.

Gorbachev smiled broadly next to Yazov and other members of the country's leadership as ranks of land, sea and air troops, military cadets and Interior Ministry forces launched the 30-minute parade through the square.

In contrast to last week's May

Day celebrations, when Gorbachev was jeered by crowds accusing him of pursuing failed policies, Wednesday's parade was a low-key, polished affair with a minimum of fanfare.

No foreign veterans marched in the square as in past major celebrations. However, defence ministers and chiefs of staff from Warsaw Pact countries did attend.

Moscow streets were virtually empty, with a marked absence of the enthusiasm shown on previous such occasions when families would turn out to witness the parade.

Troops paraded in formation over the cobbled square to take a salute from Gorbachev, commander in chief of the armed force.

Cadets scurried across Red Square to present flowers to the Kremlin chief and Yazov atop the mausoleum.

Television showed only the country's top leadership — Gorbachev, Yazov, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoly Lukyanov — excluding the rest of the leadership.

Rows of T-34 tanks, the mainstay of the Soviet assault on Nazi Germany, rolled through the square followed by vintage

Howitzers and Katyusha rocket launchers.

The new generation of Soviet hardware was also shown, including T-180 tanks.

Missiles were displayed as a television commentator said the main task of Soviet policy was to negotiate a 50 per cent cut in strategic missiles with the United States.

"The world is expecting much from the forthcoming meeting between (U.S. President George) Bush and Gorbachev," the commentator said, referring to the Washington summit opening May 30.

"But in the meantime, in conditions of military confrontation, the sole task of rocket troops is to maintain the reliable security of our country."

Military parades were to be held elsewhere in the Soviet Union, including the rebellious Baltic republics which have declared their intention to secede and denounced their 1940 incorporation into the Soviet Union.

Local authorities in both Estonia and Lithuania have protested against the parades.

Valdis Berzins, a journalist in the Latvian capital, Riga, said about 10,000 people attended the parade there without incident.

Nicaraguan rebels start disarmament

EL ALMENDRO, Nicaragua (R) — A group of 80 contra rebels handed over their rifles to United Nations troops Tuesday to start the disarmament of the U.S.-backed force that fought for eight years against Nicaragua's former Sandinista government.

Rebel fighter Armando Orozco, a twenty-eight-year-old father of four, was the first of the group to give his rifle to a U.N. soldier in this village in southeast Nicaragua.

"There is a legal government

now in Nicaragua and I have to attend to my four children," Orozco, a farmer before joining the rebel force, told reporters. "I'm prepared to accept the risk for peace," he said.

U.N. troops immediately took a blow torch to Orozco's rifle to destroy its firing mechanism. A bullet left in the rifle's chamber fired as the weapon was destroyed but those watching, reporters and international officials, were unhurt.

Human rights violations decrease in Philippines

MANILA (AP) — Human rights violations have decreased in the Philippines in recent years but military forces still head the list of violators, human rights watchdog groups said in separate reports obtained Wednesday.

Mary Concepcion Bautista, chief of the government's Commission on Human Rights, said the commission's efforts had "substantially" reduced the incidence of human rights violations. In a report to the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Human Rights, the commission said 1,863 people were cited as violators in 1988. Of those, 1,077 were soldiers or policemen and 603 were members of the Communist New People's Army.

This compares with 833 soldiers and policemen and 110 rebels cited as violators in 1989. Other alleged violators include anti-Communist vigilantes, militiamen and paramilitary troops. The report also showed that violators among the paramilitary Citizens Armed Forces geographic units increased from 14 in 1988 to 89 the following year as those units gradually took over from the notorious civilian Home Defence Forces.

The Home Defence Force is being phased out following complaints of widespread abuses. The units are supposed to be under tighter military control, but critics say the only difference is the name change.

The commission said there were 1,200 cases of violations in 1989, 383 fewer than in 1988. It also reported that there were 540 killings, 101 disappearances, 50 torture and 136 arbitrary detention cases reported in 1988, but the numbers dropped to 352 killings, 54 disappearances, 25 torture and 100 arbitrary detention in 1989.

The commission said that of the 1,200 cases last year, the rebels were blamed for 95, or about 8 per cent. They were said to be victims in 11 cases.

A separate report early this year by the Catholic Church-backed Task Force Detainees (TFD) indicated similar trends but contained different figures. The TFD said it recorded 2,160 people illegally arrested and detained out of a total of 2,312 apprehended in 1989, down from 2,990 out of 3,082 in 1988. Torture victims numbered 386 in 1989 and 718 the previous year, the TFD said.

Pope addresses plight of C. American refugees

MEXICO CITY (R) — Pope John Paul has called for international solidarity to ease Latin America's crushing debt burden and help tens of thousands of Central American refugees resettle their lives.

"The mechanism that was to have served precisely to help developing countries has become an impediment," the Pontiff said of Latin America's foreign debt of about \$400 billion.

In a speech to diplomats Tuesday, the Pope said some foreign lending to the region and the heavy burden of debt servicing had only served to accentuate under-development.

Apparently referring to the U.S.-proposed Brady plan and other debt reduction initiatives, the Pope said: "Technical measures are not enough to solve the grave problems that threaten international stability."

It was the Pope's first comment on problems faced by Latin American debtor countries since he arrived in Mexico Sunday for an eight-day visit.

He called for a new unity of the entire Latin American family of nations to confront the debt crisis and other difficulties on the path to development.

The Pope also spoke of the plight of Guatemalan and Salvadoran refugees who have streamed into Mexico over the

last decade to escape guerrilla wars and poverty.

"Among them are children, women, widows, families that have often been divided, youths who have been frustrated in their aspirations, adults who have been uprooted from their jobs and deprived of all material possessions," he said.

In an apparent reference to the squalid living conditions and human rights abuses many Central Americans face in Mexico, the Pontiff urged the international community to help "guarantee that the inalienable rights that correspond to them as people are sufficiently recognised."

United Nations officials say more than 150,000 Guatemalans and Salvadoreans living in Mexico should be officially recognised as refugees because they faced political reprisals, including summary death sentences for alleged collaboration or sympathies with leftist rebels, if they were to return home.

The Mexican government reports about 12,000 Central Americans a month, according to a U.N. official.

While Mexico recognises 43,000 Guatemalans living in makeshift settlements as refugees, it has denied 100,000 Salvadoreans the same status, according to the official.

Roh calls for national unity

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Roh Tae-woo called Wednesday for national unity as radical students staged violent street protests and boycotted classes to demand the overthrow of the new governing party.

Police arrested nine students who tried to march on the U.S. embassy in downtown Seoul shouting anti-government and anti-U.S. slogans. Another band of students attacked a police substation with firebombs.

In the central city of Taejeon, students burned a police bus with firebombs and in Chonju, about 2,000 students from seven schools battled police on city streets, said Yonhap, the South Korean News Agency.

Hong Kong accused of brutality towards Vietnamese

HONG KONG (R) — An international aid agency accused Hong Kong Tuesday of brutality towards Vietnamese women and children caught up in a massive police raid on a detention centre for boat people last week.

Police fired more than 100 rounds of teargas last Friday to quell violence that raged for 11 hours after they raided Hong Kong's largest camp, arresting 180 inmates and seizing homemade weapons.

Philip Barker, a field officer for the Save the Children Fund agency, said he had received reports of mothers pushed and hit by police with batons for moving too slowly.

"There's a very common pattern of people saying they were made to stand out in the open from very early in the morning until three or four o'clock in the afternoon with no food, no drink," Barker said.

"And if they wanted to urinate or defecate they had to do it exactly where they were in full public view."

The agency, which rarely comments on conditions in the crowded Vietnamese detention centres, warned Hong Kong against becoming indifferent to the plight of the boat people.

Amazon will not become a 'museum' — Brazil minister

BRASILIA (AP) — Brazil will act to limit the destruction of its Amazon rain forest, but will not turn the rapidly shrinking jungle into a "museum," the country's top environmental official says.

"We can't stop development and growth, but yes, we can make human occupation compatible with the survival of the planet," National Environment Secretary Jose Lutzenberger said at a news conference Tuesday.

"The Amazon has already been touched and occupied. That is why it can never be a reserve or a museum," said the noted 64-year-old ecologist.

Lutzenberger outlined ways to stop slash-and-burn devastation of the Amazon, where carbon dioxide produced by land-clearing fires is believed to add to the "greenhouse" effect warming the Earth's surface. The fires also destroy the forest's capacity to regulate moisture and produce oxygen.

He was appointed last month by President Fernando Collor de Mello, who was elected in March, and made his comments a week after attending an international conference on environment in Washington.

First, Lutzenberger said, the government planned to increase firefighting operations in the Amazon four-fold this year and start a programme to reforest the rain forest's soil by organic agricultural methods.

"In this way we will stop small farmers, impoverished by soil that only gives two or three harvests, from burning other tracts of the jungle," said Lutzenberger.

He said the World Bank and the Inter-American Development

Bank had expressed interest in financing the programme, but gave no details.

Lutzenberger said that 500,000 square kilometres of the 5 million square-kilometre Amazon jungle had been cut and burned in a haphazard rush to inhabit the region.

But he said a suspension of federal subsidies that spawned large-scale development projects there "automatically hurt" interest in those projects, and consequently reduced the burnings.

Lutzenberger said the government of former President Jose Sarney had no "political interest" to stop the burnings, which are now monitored by a satellite that detects even brush fires and allow forest rangers helicopters to catch and fine violators.

Further, Brazil needs to scrap plans to build hydroelectric dams in the rain forest, and should promote small generators and floating river turbines financed and run by local municipalities and private businessmen.

Brazil also needs to look to alternative sources of energy from the sun, wind and vegetation, he said.

"The construction of dams is a technocratic solution coming from concentrated power. The only ones who gain are the builders and the large investors," he said.

Lutzenberger criticised the Itaipu Dam, built by Brazil and Paraguay on the Parana River dividing the countries, and the Tucuruí project in the Amazon jungle.

"Itaipu only produces at 60 per cent of its capacity and we don't even know what to do with so much energy," Lutzenberger

4 die, 41 hurt in Punjab bomb blast

AMRITSAR (AP) — Suspected Sikh militants bombed two buses at a city station Wednesday, killing four people and injuring 41 others in this Sikh holy city, police said.

Senior police superintendent Sanjeev Gupta said the first explosion occurred in a Punjab state transport company bus that was about to leave for state capital Chandigarh.

One man and a woman, both unidentified, were killed instantly, he said. Other police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two more people died after being taken to the hospital. They said 26 people were injured. Gupta said 13 of the injured were in critical condition.

The bomb, hidden in a plastic basket, exploded while passengers were rushing out of the packed bus after a police search party raised an alarm on seeing the bomb, Gupta said.

Five minutes later, another bomb planted in a bus a few

metres away blew up, injuring 15 passengers, Gupta said. The second bomb also was hidden in a plastic basket, he said.

Bus station supervisor Dilip Singh said the police, acting on intelligence reports, began searching for the bomb at 12.30 p.m. (0700 GMT), an hour before the blasts occurred.

Ranjit Singh, the driver of another bus, said he was parking his vehicle along the first bus when "I heard a loud explosion and saw metal pieces flying in the air."

Both buses caught fire after the explosions and were destroyed. Police were searching the debris. Gupta said Sikh extremists were suspected to have planted the bombs. He refused to elaborate.

The second bus was on its way to a Hindu shrine, 350 kilometres north of Amritsar in Jammu-Kashmir state, and was packed with Hindu pilgrims, he said.

Amritsar, the site of Sikhdom's

holiest shrine, the Golden Temple, is also the stronghold of Sikh militants who have been fighting since 1982 for a separate nation they propose to carve out of Punjab.

Elsewhere in Punjab, Sikh extremists killed six people since Tuesday night, United News of India news agency said. The killings brought to 777 the number of people killed by the militants this year in their quest for the independent nation.

Punjab, India's only state where Sikhs are in a majority — though slight — is a rich farming region in the north, bordering Pakistan.

Separatists among the Sikh community, which forms 2 per cent of India's population of 880 million, allege cultural, political and economic discrimination by the Hindu majority and the government dominated by Hindus. The majority community comprises 82 per cent of the population.

Nepali king tries to cling to power

KATHMANDU (R) — King Birendra, who promised to cooperate with Nepal's new government, is trying to cling to his old powers, Nepali Congress Party sources said Wednesday.

"Nobody gives up powers just like that and the king is also resisting the change," a senior official in the Nepali Congress Party of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai told Reuters.

Bhattarai, sworn in three weeks after pro-democracy protests, attacked the king's power base Monday by sacking 14 regional commissioners appointed by the palace.

The commissioners virtually ran the Himalayan kingdom and were answerable only to the monarch.

After the sackings "palace officials rang up the home minister and said it was not a good step," said the Nepali Congress official.

The king later told the interim prime minister he would ask the commissioners to resign rather than accept the dismissals, the source said.

The monarch swore in Bhattarai to head a coalition with the

Communists after tens of thousands of people demanding democracy tried to storm his palace on April 6.

Scores were killed when troops opened fire.

The monarchy appeared in danger of collapse but the king backed down and replaced the partyless Panchayat (council) system with multi-party politics.

Party sources said Bhattarai would next sack some top ministry officials and transfer others to try to gain further control over state agencies.

Calderon becomes Costa Rican president

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Rafael Angel Calderon has assumed the presidency from Nobel laureate Oscar Arias and proclaimed the ambition of Latin America's most stable democracy to become "a world power of disarmament and human rights."

Recalling his father who was sworn in as president 30 years ago, Calderon promised a government of national consensus in which private enterprise will be the motor of what he termed "economic democracy."

But he also lamented the large federal budget deficit — 6 per cent of the gross national product — and said austerity measures will be needed during his first year to control inflation.

"There are economic world powers and military world powers. We only aspire to consolidate ourselves as a world power of

disarmament and human rights," Calderon told a crowd of 50,000 in the national soccer stadium after receiving the presidential sash from Arias and taking the oath of office.

Seven heads of state — including Calderon's four Central American colleagues — attended the inauguration, and first lady Barbara Bush headed the U.S. delegation.

Salvador rebels warn Jesuit murder probe could jeopardise peace talks

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadoran rebels have warned that U.N.-sponsored peace talks with the government set for later this month could be jeopardised if members of the military implicated in the murder of six Jesuit priests last November go unpunished.

A statement released by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) linked a senior officer to the murders of the priests and two women and said plans for his sudden retirement, apparently without facing charges, "would seriously affect the process of negotiation and the possibility of reaching a ceasefire."

The talks on ending the country's 10-year-old civil war, set to

begin on May 16 in Caracas, Venezuela, stem from a U.N.-brokered accord signed in March by rebel and government representatives in Geneva.

Seven soldiers, including a colonel, have been held in connection with the killings, which sparked international outrage when they occurred during last November's rebel offensive. Another soldier is still at large.

The case is currently under investigation by a Salvadoran court but important evidence has disappeared and key witnesses, who authorities say have left the country, are currently unavailable to testify.

The government of President Alfredo Cristiani has come under

strong criticism for its handling of the investigation.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Tuesday the failure to prosecute the priests' murderers would make it harder to persuade the U.S. Congress to approve funding for military aid to El Salvador.

No member of the military, which has been linked to a catalogue of crimes and abuses over the past decade, has ever been convicted of a human rights violation.

Despite Tuesday's warning, the FMLN reiterated support for the negotiations but said it was justified continuing military action until a ceasefire accord, considered the first key step in ending the war, was reached.

Art world bids boom goodbye

NEW YORK (R) — Dozens of art works went unsold at Sotheby's auction house, justifying art market fears that the five-year boom is finally over. The contemporary art sale, which grossed \$55.9 million for Sotheby's, came on the heels of a disappointing contemporary art sale at Christie's Monday night, when 26 of 77 works failed to sell.

Sotheby's contemporary art expert Lucy Mitchell-Innes said she thought the market remained "robust," but said: "It could not continue to go up as it has over the last two to three years." Last year art watchers saw paintings such as Jasper Johns's False Start go for \$17 million and Willem de Kooning's Interchange go for \$20.7 million, both sums more than doubling the previous records for contemporary art. At Sotheby's Tuesday, 32 of 87 art works went unsold. De Kooning's Woman in Landscape, expected to fetch between \$9 million and \$13 million, managed to garner only a \$4.5 million bid and was withdrawn from sale.

The monarchy appeared in danger of collapse but the king backed down and replaced the partyless Panchayat (council) system with multi-party politics. Party sources said Bhattarai would next sack some top ministry officials and transfer others to try to gain further control over state agencies.

Vandal slits throat of Copenhagen's Little Mermaid

COPENHAGEN (R) — A vandal has slit the throat of the Little Mermaid statue, Copenhagen's best-known tourist landmark. Danish police said Tuesday that an 18 centimetre incision, probably made by a saw several weeks ago, was noticed by a passerby who reported it. The metre high seated bronze harbour-side statue, inspired by a fairy tale written in 1873 by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, was erected in 1913. Over the years the Little Mermaid has suffered much at the hands of vandals.

Italian coach wants players to swear off sex

COVERCIANO, Italy (AP) — The head coach of the Italian soccer team has said he is asking his players to swear off sex until the World Cup tournament ends on July 8. Azeogio Vicini told reporters in Italy's training ground, Coverciano, near Florence, that the next weekend will be the last at liberty for the players before a long period of "seclusion". "Chastity of players prior and during a major competition has been a long-debated but unsolved problem," said Vicini, adding that the players will have to concentrate on strategy, training

Hoffman, Turner and others nominated for Tonys

NEW YORK (AP) — Movie stars Dustin Hoffman, Kathleen Turner, Maggie Smith and Tom Hulse won recognition for their work on stage in the 1990 Tony nominations for the best of Broadway. Two lavish musicals, Grand Hotel and City of Angels, dominated the nominations announced Monday. Grand Hotel, a Tommy Tune musical set in 1920s Berlin, led the field in the musical category with 12 nominations. City of Angels, a 1940s Los Angeles detective musical, garnered 11. Both shows were nominated for best musical along with Andrew Lloyd Webber's Aspects of Love and Meet Me in St. Louis, a stage version of the MGM musical. The winners will be chosen by 661 theatrical professionals and journalists who vote by secret ballot. The Piano Lesson by August Wilson, the winner of this year's Pulitzer Prize for drama, is the top contender for Best Play.

Foetus survives abortion of twin

SYDNEY (R) — A woman pregnant with twins gave birth to a healthy girl after doctors aborted the other foetus she was carrying, the Medical Journal of Australia reported this week. An article in the journal's May issue said doctors in Adelaide aborted the foetus, a male, after they found it had thalassaemia — a rare genetic disorder that usually leaves children handicapped and kills before maturity. In an editorial, the journal warned that selective termination was a "very serious issue that has a sinister ring to it, with perhaps even connotations of eugenics (manipulating offspring to create superior humans)." "Legally, selective termination may be viewed as being different from abortion, as the intention is for the pregnancy to continue," said Professor William Walters of the University of New South Wales.